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THE MARTLET

October 23, 2008 The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper Vol. 61, No. 12 www.martlet.ca

Petition shot down at AGM

Bylaws trump the request for a referendum to remove the UVSS board of directors

Kailey Willetts

A proposed referendum on removing the current UVic Student Society Board of Directors failed to make it onto the UVSS Annual General Meeting agenda on Oct. 16.

José Barrios, who initially petitioned that the removal of the board be brought to a student vote, had his request turned down at a special UVSS board meeting, but attempted to amend last Thursday's AGM agenda to include a special resolution that would put the question of removal on the table.

Barrios, who had less than the needed five per cent support, said the special resolution should be allowed because of a UVSS bylaw which states that a special resolution needs a one per cent support quota from the UVic student population.

> "My fear is that [the board]'ll find another technicality."
>
> – José Barrios
> Union member
> and UVic student

Meeting chair Amanda Aziz declared the move to amend out of order because of a second UVSS bylaw stating that a special resolution specifically for impeachment needs to be supported by five per cent of the student population.

Barrios appealed the ruling and the chair's decision was put to a vote.

Sixty-five of the students present voted to uphold the chair's decision, while 42 voted in disagreement. The AGM agenda was not amended to include the special resolution.

Barrios said he sought the referendum in response to the board's failure to end the Student Union Building workers' strike. He believes that, as part of a democratic society, removal of the board should be brought to a student vote.

"I am not asking for the removal of the directors," said Barrios. "I am just asking for a vote to be brought on it."

Like Barrios, many of the students who came to the AGM to vote are striking workers.

Acting union president Micheal Ryan insists that the union does not support the petition or impeaching the board.

"I agree they have the right to do it, but don't agree that removing the board is a good idea," said Ryan. "It's really not our place [as a union] to tell our members what they can and can't support."

Barrios plans to continue petitioning students until he has five per cent support, or 800 signatures.

"The reason the petition got rejected is because they ignored my knowledge of bylaw 10.4 a," said Barrios.

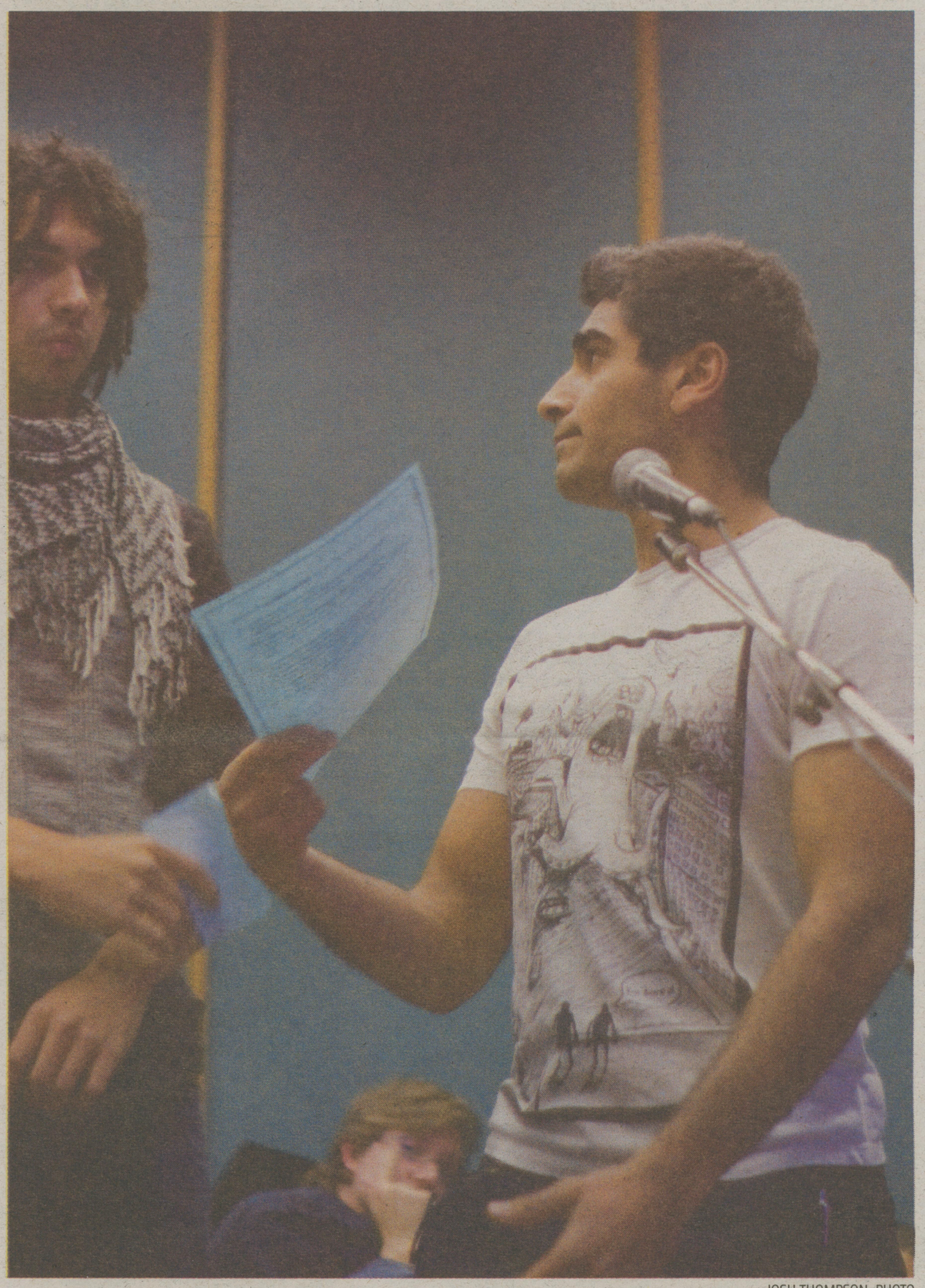
The bylaw in question said he needed only one per cent support for a special resolution. Barrios added that he's willing to meet the board's interpretation of the bylaw which includes having five per cent support from the student population.

Barrios had 561 signatures at press time. He plans present at least 800 signatures at the next board meeting on Nov. 3.

According to UVSS bylaws, this would be one way to initiate impeachment proceedings, either through a general meeting or a referendum.

"My fear," Barrios said, "is that they'll find another technicality."

-with files from Sam VanSchie



JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

UVSS Director-at-Large Ahmed Mumeni (right) shows José Barrios the bylaw specifying impeachment.

Sustainability plan seeks student involvement

Adam Pez

UVic students have just under two months to make an impact on the university's 2009 Sustainability Policy and Action plan.

The plan, which will set the tone for environmental policy at UVic on everything from waste management and recreation to arts and culture for the next five years, is nearing the end of its recommendation phase.

Input has been collected from students, faculty and community members since March through surveys, public workshops, open houses and focus groups. The results will be presented online in a draft policy from Nov. 14 to Dec. 22 for comment.

Sarah Webb, UVic's sustainability coordinator, said it's all been part of a "continual ongoing strategy to include all walks of life" in creating a vision for a sustainable campus.

"We want to create a collaborative effort across all departments, from individual footprints to what things the departments, and even the entire institution, can do," said Webb.

UVic's Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability still has a number of opportunities left for students to get involved.

One of those opportunities is the "In Your Own Backyard Green Ideas" contest, which closes on Nov. 1 at 4 p.m. Judges will be looking for ideas that offer "clear, feasible, innovative and creative" ways to make the campus more sustainable.

In particular, Webb said they'll be looking for submissions that answer how the student's idea will impact the community or region.

The top three contestants will win $500 valid for tuition, professional development, or research assistant hours.

Another opportunity for student involvement is the Campus Sustainability summit, hosted on Nov. 22. Registration is available online.

"The summit is a great way for students to get engaged and refine that vision," said Webb who hopes to fill the 200 spaces open to the public.

The summit promises to be a "zero-waste" event with local and organic food for breakfast and lunch, 100 per cent post-consumer recycled paper for all printing and environmentally-themed draw prizes.

Those who attend will also get their own grab-bag of goodies, including a draft plan, conference workbook and name tag.

For those who can't attend the summit on Nov. 22, there will be an open house hosted in the University Centre on Nov. 26 to showcase the revised draft.

Otherwise, students can voice their opinions by completing a short online survey on the plan's website.

To learn more about the plan or to get involved, visit uvic.ca/sustainability, or call Sarah Webb at 250-721-6678 for more information.

Shelter bed bylaw to stop tent cities

Scott Daly

Victoria City Council has decided it will appeal a ruling that allows homeless people to erect temporary shelters in public parks.

The B.C. Supreme Court ruling on Oct. 14 found that the former bylaw that made it illegal to erect shelters was unconstitutional as it violated the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The judge also stated that whenever there aren't enough shelters beds for the street population, they must be allowed to erect their own shelters in public parks.

It will take a year for the city's appeal to be heard. In the meantime, the city is limiting when homeless people can set up tents, and are offering more beds to get them out of the streets and parks.

"We would like to see the [court's] decision reversed," said city spokesperson Katie Josephson. "The presence of these larger camps often have harmful impacts on the environment and risk the safety of the public."

Josephson says that a similar tent city that developed in Cridge Park for about a month in 2005 became a hub of criminal activity and drug use and cost the city $114,000 in clean-up and enforcement costs.

Many homeless advocates say erecting a tent or tarp is the only way to protect themselves from the elements when forced to sleep outside due to full city shelters.

In the days after the ruling, about a dozen tents sprang up in Beacon Hill Park by a few of the city's 1,000 homeless people.

However, the tents were dismantled by police on Oct. 17 after the city passed a bylaw to allow homeless people to set up temporary shelters in city parks only between the hours of 9 p.m. and 7 a.m.

While most of the campers abided by this new policy, five were arrested, including David Arthur Johnson who largely spearheaded the court case. Three others were fined when they refused to take down their tents.

Police have since said they don't expect a return of the tent city, and they have started routine early morning patrols in Beacon Hill Park to ensure the new bylaw is followed.

UVic law professor Benjamin Berger hopes the B.C. Supreme Court's finding will remind people across the country of the need to resolve homelessness, and encourage debate on how to address the issue.

To Berger, the solution will never be through bylaws, but through well-informed policy.

"I hope the main effect of this decision is that it serves as a wake-up call to all levels of government as well as citizens themselves," said Berger. "They [need to] realize that the optimal solution is not homeless people setting up tarps in parks," said Berger.

On Monday, Oct. 20, the province announced the opening of 40 more beds in Victoria. The previous Friday, Oct. 17, the city added 45 beds at the Streetlink shelter and the Salvation Army Addictions and Rehabilitation centre.

LEAH SCHEITEL PHOTO

A dozen tents were removed with city restricted legal tenting times.

This number is in addition to the 141 year-round and 30 seasonal shelter beds Victoria had before the ruling, but critics say much more is needed.

B.C. NDP leader Carole James said in a statement that the proince needs to do more to help close the gap between available shelter spaces and the actual number of homeless people — which she says was at the heart of the Court's ruling.

"I support the City of Victoria's response, but the provincial government needs to step up to the plate and support local governments like Victoria," said James.

Event gives insight into homeless life

Kat Eschner

Homeless members of the Victoria community were given access to services like resumé help, pet care and haircuts during Project Connect, a fair for the street community on Oct. 16.

"The event came together really quickly," said Lynn Driver, one of the fair's co-ordinators. She noted that the main way the event was publicized was in a weekly column in the Times Colonist written by Jody Paterson.

"The morning her article came out, there must have been 60 phone calls," Driver said, adding that the original idea for the event came from John Ducker, deputy chief of the Victoria Police Department.

A component of the day's events was a survey, distributed to any homeless or near-homeless person willing to participate. According to Driver, the survey was part of the day's purpose: to gain insight into the lives and needs of the homeless.

Driver spent the day handing out "survival kits" which consisted of basic supplies like toothbrushes, soap, hand sanitizer and women's sanitary napkins.

She estimated about 500 kits were distributed.

More than 500 people were served lunch at the event, according to Beacon Bus operator Thomas Kizak.

The Lions Club barbecued hamburgers and hotdogs, while The Bus (a Salvation Army-Beacon Hill Ministry initiative) provided coffee and snacks.

"Because I live downtown and because I feel misinformed and underinformed [about homelessness], I really wanted to play a big part," said Gillie Easdon, another co-ordinator.

Easdon lives close to St. John the Divine Anglican Church, where the event was held. She said that what she witnessed during Project Connect didn't confirm the stereotypes she'd heard about the homeless.

"So many people, whether they're educated or not educated, have total prejudices against homeless people," Easdon said. "Nothing bad has happened today,"

Volunteer Bill Fosdick had a similiar reaction. He spent the day producing full resumes for eight individuals, and conducting mock interviews with many.

"You realize that these people have done and experienced many different things before arriving at the state they're in," said Fosdick. "They're well-read, informed about what's going on in the world and have had jobs you wouldn't even think of."

The event was organized by the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, a group co-chaired by Victoria Mayor Alan Lowe and Ted Hughes.

Stepping away from carbon

Go Beyond asks students to reduce their eco-footprints

Sam VanSchie

PROVIDED PHOTO

Jamie Biggar (left) discusses climate change solutions with Jerry Xie.

There are always things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint, according to the Go Beyond campaign launched at UVic in September. This month you may be asked in class for your thoughts on how to do just that.

The campaign is designed to help universities meet their provincially legislated target of becoming carbon neutral by 2010. The goal is to get students on board with reducing the amount of carbon they produce individually.

"The first step [for students] is just figuring out your impact with an online carbon calculator," explained Tania Akehurst, a spokesperson for the campaign. "When you know which of your actions produce a lot of carbon, you can target them with small or large changes."

In October, Go Beyond has arranged for professors in many disciplines at nine B.C. universities to give their students four questions about how their field of study can contribute to addressing climate change. At the end of the month, students will discuss their ideas and the results will be compiled and sent to the Ministry of Education as suggestions for how to put climate change on the curriculum of all disciplines.

On its website, the Go Beyond challenge breaks down target areas into the categories of transportation, home and food. It suggests small, medium and large changes that can be made under each heading.

In transportation, for example, it suggests changes in commuting habits, from the small change of carpooling once a week, to the large change of working from home.

"We want to have options for people no matter where they are in their path to carbon neutrality," Akehurst said. "Just because you aren't 100 per cent doesn't mean you have to be zero per cent. There are a lot of next steps every level."

The most important step, according to Akehurst, is being aware yourself, then telling other people.

"That's sort of what this program is all about," she said. "It's the 'next step' of telling people and getting people signed on to the challenge."

Besides UVic, UBC and Thompson Rivers University have already launched the campaign, and nine other B.C. universities or colleges will adopt it in January, with more coming on in September of 2009.

The goal for each institution is to sign on three per cent of their student body to the challenge. So far, UVic has over 520 students signed up; about 70 per cent of their goal.

A co-founder of the Go Beyond campaign, Jamie Biggar, said post-secondary students are ideal targets for campaigns like this because many are open to change and haven't settled into a fixed routine yet.

"They don't already own a big gas guzzling SUV and a house in the suburbs," said Biggar. "So, there is huge potential for them to make choices now that they can carry through into the rest of their life."

Institutions on the whole, Biggar explained, are important places of ideas and research, which the project would like to harness for ideas of how to address carbon production.

For more information on the Go Beyond initiatives, visit www.campusclimatenetwork.org.

Board amends bylaw for more accountability

Kailey Willetts

The UVic Student Society's Board of Directors will be more accountable for fulfilling their elected roles, after amendments to the society's bylaws were passed with little opposition at the UVSS Annual General Meeting on Thursday, Oct. 16.

More than 100 students showed up at the meeting, and while many of them were there to voice their concerns about the Student Union Building strike, the UVSS took advantage of the quorate meeting to pass amendments to a bylaw that will consider board members to have resigned after they miss three of the board's 24 scheduled meetings without regrets or leaves of absence.

The rephrased bylaw will also restrict the number of four-month leaves of absence allowed per year-long term to one, which must be for the purpose of school or work.

They mandated that regrets for missing a meeting must be for "illness or emergency."

"Board members won't just be able to send in regrets that say something like, 'I've got to watch *America's Next Top Model*,'" said UVSS chair Caitlin Meggs. "They'll have to do what they were elected to do. It's a good thing."

Rebecca Robb, the ACCESS UVic constituency representative for the board, disagreed with Meggs. She said some people with disabilities need to miss meetings for reasons other than emergency or illness, and voted against adding that restriction.

"There's a reality that life can get in the way," said Robb. "Quite often for disabled people there's a routin; low-maintenance things."

> "There have been directors that didn't fulfill their duties"
>
> – Tracy Ho
> Former UVSS chair

Another ACCESS UVic member, Kyla Berry, also spoke against the amendments.

"This motion would be discriminatory to people with disabilities serving on the board," said Berry.

Still, the motion passed with an overwhelming majority of voters.

Meggs said while there are no current board members skipping meetings without cause, it has been a problem in the past.

Finance Director Tracy Ho was board chair last year, and said she saw what happens as the year wears on and people become less enthusiastic about coming to meetings.

"There have been directors that didn't fulfill their duties by coming to these meetings," said Ho.

Now, with a rule in place preventing members from doing so, Meggs thinks it will make people think twice before missing a meeting.

"[Responsibility] starts now," she said.

Rethink your drink

Gemma Karstens-Smith

UVic's Counselling Services is hosting a party to get students to re-examine their drinking habits.

"Rethinking your drinking: Trick or Treat" will take place at the University Centre on Monday, Oct. 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"We're not trying to say 'Hey, you should stop drinking'," said Kristina Brache, a psychology grad student who helped to organize the event.

"We're just giving [students] options for different decisions they can make."

The event will include candy, games, prizes, mocktails and stress-busting tips. Information will be available on everything from harm-reduction strategies and tips for drinking safely to programs like Safe Walk and Safe Night Out.

A coaster-making contest will take place, where students can write messages about safer alcohol use geared towards their peers.

"We're going to try to have [the winning designs] produced for local establishments," said Brache.

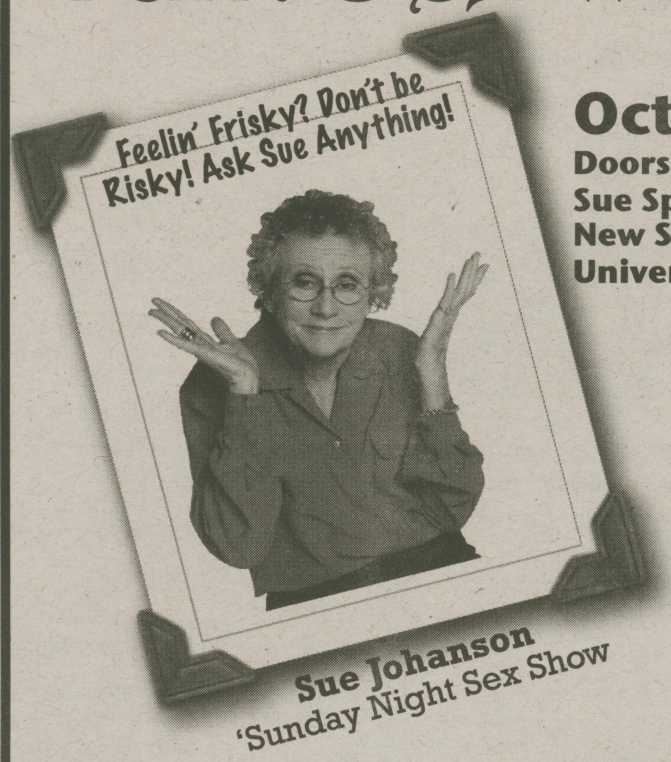
"Electronic Checkup to Go" (formerly e-Chug) will be set up to give students an opportunity to see how their drinking habits are affecting their lives.

"Trick or Treat" was planned to coincide with Alcohol Awareness week, but it also falls during a particularly stressful time for most students.

"We want to promote people being a little more conscious about how they [manage their stress]," said Dave O'Brien, a counsellor at UVic's Counselling Services. "It's also a chance to clarify many misperceptions people may have about alcohol or its effects."

On Nov 15th Vote
Richard Park
Victoria City Council
A Campus Voice at City Hall
www.richardpark.ca

UVic Students' Society and Camosun College Student's Society Presents...
Talk Sex with Sue!



October 30, 2008
Doors at 4:30pm
Sue Speaks at 5pm
New Sciences Building Rm B150
University of Victoria

Curious? Don't be shy! Come meet the host of the popular 'Sunday Night Sex Show' Sue Johanson!

Tickets $12 w/student ID, $15 community
On sale around campus or call (250) 721-8367 for more details!
Join the 'Talk SEX with Sue' Facebook event!

UVSS
college camosun CCSS student society

This week in Martlet history

Stories from the Martlet archives

Oct. 26, 1972 – Partisan Liberal supporters packed Victoria's Royal Theater to hear Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau campaign on his government's first-term record during the 1972 federal election.

Much of Trudeau's speech was spent outlining how, under the Liberals, separatism in Quebec was on the run, the status of women was being improved and minority groups were finally being recognized as an important part of Canada.

After asking himself if the west felt alienated in Canada, the Prime Minister claimed that by making sure Russia and China consider Canada their first source of grain, the west would be kept from feeling isolated.

Oct. 25, 1984 – UVic's Alma Mater Society tabled a budget that threatened to starve the Martlet of operating funds.

The paper, as a non-autonomous service funded by the AMS, faced a funding shortfall of nearly $10,000. Ads, already generating 80 per cent of Martlet operating revenue, threatened to crowd out important campus news, such as stories on Martlet funding woes.

Oct. 25, 1984 – The Vikes men's basketball team obliterated the Royal Military College Paladins to the tune of 73-52 in pre-season action.

Point guard Josh Whyte had the play of the game, converting an alley-oop pass from Tyler Hass into a roof-raising dunk.

Rabbits target of university campaign

Kailey Willetts

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

Though many UVic students feed the rabbits for fun, the university discourages this in its new campaign.

They may seem like cute, cuddly little friends, but according to UVic's new awareness campaign, campus rabbits are feral and need to be treated as such.

"They are wildlife," said Neil Connelly, Director of Campus Planning and Sustainability.

UVic launched its rabbit management plan in September with posters, brochures and bookmarks.

"This stage is a public awareness campaign," said Connelly. "I think the recognition is that word needs to get out."

The message: Don't feed the rabbits, don't pet the rabbits, don't harass the rabbits and don't abandon your pet rabbit on campus.

Connelly said that feeding the rabbits increases their population, and leftover food can attract rats.

"The food that people give them may not be extremely healthy for the rabbits," he added.

Connelly said petting the rabbits is dangerous because it is possible to contract tetanus from rabbit bites or get sick from their feces. Rabbits are wildlife, he said, and therefore should not be chased or picked up.

"It's important that people don't harass or be cruel to the rabbits," said Connelly.

Many UVic's rabbits are actually decendents of pet bunnies once abandoned on campus. The campaign was started in response to the apparent increase of the number of rabbits on campus.

However, Connelly said that the rabbits may also be more concentrated now due to construction forcing them out of the areas they previously inhabited.

The rabbit management plan is an ongoing process that aims not only to change the way people interact with the rabbits, but to manage the rabbit population itself.

Connelly said one of the possibilities is talking with local municipalities about implementing a bylaw that would make it illegal to sell rabbits that had not been spayed our neutered. That way, rabbits abandoned on campus will not reproduce.

Since one female rabbit can have between three to five litters per year, that could leave a mark of control in the UVic rabbit population.

Currently, it is illegal to abandon rabbits on campus, but Connelly said that isn't something the campaign directly enforces.

Connelly said the next stage of the rabbit management plan will be attempting to control the areas of campus that the rabbits inhabit. In particular, he said they need to be kept away from athletic fields.

"That's a problem area where they burrow holes," said Connelly, adding that holes in the field pose risks to the athletes using them.

"We want to keep rabbits away from heritage grounds," he said.

Areas like Finnerty Gardens are damaged by rabbits that like to eat the plants there.

The university has already constructed a $10,000 fence around the gardens to keep the rabbits out.

Connelly said that more native vegetation will be planted for the rabbits, and the vegetation around areas where the rabbits aren't wanted will be cut down to prevent them from nesting. Fences will also be placed around new vegetation, where rabbits like to burrow in the soft dirt.

The university will also have to address its neighbours' concerns that rabbits are migrating onto their properties.

Connelly said the plan contains no intentions to euthanize rabbits.

"There's been no suggestion around taking lethal measures at this point," he said.

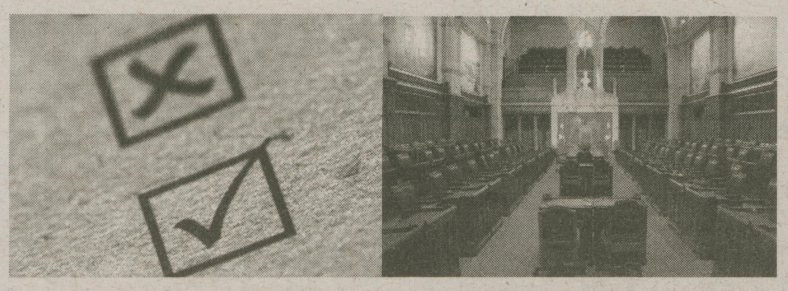
Connelly also said the rabbit management plan's intention is not to eradicate the entire rabbit population at the school.

"The university said that rabbits have been on campus for several years and they are likely to have a continued presence," said Connelly.

Despite the plan, UVic isn't entirely on board with the campaign yet.

The UVic website for prospective faculty (http://opportunities.uvic.ca) contains a humourous recipe for feeding carrots to the rabbits in its "About UVic" section. The recipe is borrowed from the psych department.

In 1999, Victoria General Hospital's overabundance of rabbits was causing health concerns due to feces being tracked inside. To combat the hazard, their rabbit population was culled.



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2008 STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

$10,000 IN PRIZES

2008 Essay Contest Question:

Should Canadians switch to a system of PROPORTIONAL representation?

A **$5,000 cash prize** will be awarded to the winning essay by a ***graduate*** student and a **$5,000 cash prize** will be awarded to the winning essay by an ***undergraduate*** student.

The 2008 Canada West Foundation Essay Contest is open to students attending a post-secondary institution in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, or Manitoba during the Fall 2008 or Winter 2009 semester.

Undergraduate students: the essay must be between 750 and 1,000 words in length. Graduate students: the essay must be between 1,250-1,500 words in length.

The essay must be submitted to the Canada West Foundation via email no later than January 31, 2009. The essay must be sent as a standard Microsoft Word file. The author's first and last name, mailing address, phone number, post-secondary institution and field of study must appear at the beginning of the essay. PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU ARE IN AN UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE PROGRAM.

The best essays will be published electronically by the Canada West Foundation. The winning essay and runners-up will be chosen by a panel of judges.

Essays should be emailed to:

Kari Roberts
Senior Policy Analyst
Canada West Foundation
roberts@cwf.ca

CanadaWest FOUNDATION

See Canada West Foundation website (www.cwf.ca) for full contest details.

IT'S TIME FOR THE **AGM!**

DATE: October 30th

TIME: 4:00 PM

PLACE: Clearihue A304

PROPOSED AGENDA:

1) Call to order
2) Adoption of the agenda
3) Reports from full-time staff
4) Question period
5) Election of the Board of Directors
6) Special Resolution:

"Be it resolved to strike part 2.b of Bylaw Seven, and replace it with:

The Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor shall be given membership in the MPS with full staff status for one year, beginning the day after the last day that they are Editor-in-Chief or Managing Editor of the MPS. "

7) Motion to refer the matter of the fitness of our bylaws to a special committee
8) Other Business
9) Motion to adjourn

Come for the donuts, stay for the motions!

That's right folks, it's time for the Martlet's Annual General Meeting. We'll be having a fun time electing a new Board of Directors, talking about the year so far, and discussing our bylaws.

If your name is in the staff box, your presence is urgently requested. If you're not staff but would still like to get involved with the Martlet, then you're warmly welcomed. But please, do attend!

Campaign sign mysteries solved

Election season accessories don't meet the terrible end eco-conscious voters may think

Doug Hamilton-Evans

With the federal election campaign over, a sense of normalcy has returned to the lives of Canadians — no one is calling asking for their vote, Stephen Harper has returned the sweaters to his closet and our attention can finally return to the American election.

Physical remnants of the campaign that once dominated our city's lawns and boulevards are now out of sight and out of mind. But many Victoria residents are left wondering: what happens to all the signs?

Ian Pyper, campaign manager for Victoria Conservative candidate Jack McClintock, was quick to say that his party's campaign signs were collected within two days of polls closing and that all signs would be reused. If the signs were damaged, they would recover what they could and recycle the rest. Pyper said that they chose to use galvanized steel for the wire in their wire-bag lawn signs because, although it cost a bit more, it was sturdier and easier to recycle.

"We have taken the signs into account," Pyper said, referring to the over 2,000 signs erected, the majority of them being the plastic wire-bag variety.

Pyper admitted that if McClintock did not run in the next election, the plastic would have to be recycled, but the wire could still be reused. Signs that were too heavily damaged would have to be disposed of.

The NDP also has a strategy to reuse and recycle campaign signs. Hilary Stead, campaign manager for Denise Savoie, said that the wooden signs would be donated to Habitat for Humanity and the rest would be stored for use in the next election. If Savoie does not run again, the signs with her name on them would be recycled and their wire frame reused.

Approximately 1,200 signs were put out by the NDP, all of which went on private property.

"A sign on a lawn means a sign of support," Stead said, adding that most people with signs on their lawns contacted the party.

Stead said that despite campaign signs being banned from Oak Bay lawns, they still went up. Certain rules for posting campaign signs in Victoria were "constantly violated," she said.

The Green Party had a specific strategy for their old campaign signs. Marnie Hamagami, a UVic student and a campaign manager for Adam Saab, said that two volunteers had come forward to house the signs until the next election.

While the Greens have the same reuse/recycle plan as the NDP and the Conservatives, they also printed a number of signs with the party logo and no name or date to make them easier to reuse. "Andrew Lewis, the Green Party candidate for Saanich and the Gulf Islands, has used his signs in the past three elections," Hamagami said.

"We didn't put up half as many signs as the other parties," Hamagami said. In fact, by her rough estimates, the Greens only set up 250 to 350 campaign signs. "We would have liked more signs. Signs are huge for a campaign, especially when name recognition is so important."

The Green party's sign strategy mirrors their campaign in general.

"We aren't fully funded in every riding, but we try to make an impact where we can," Hamagami said. To make that impact, the Victoria Green Party had a "very enthusiastic" sign manager who moved the signs weekly to generate visibility.

While the Conservatives, NDP and Greens all seem to have the environment at heart when it comes to signage, the conservation effort goes hand-in-hand with maintaining a campaign budget.

MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

Victoria MP Denise Savoie ready to make changes

Kat Eschner

Denise Savoie, returning NDP Victoria MP, is happy that the horserace has ended.

"It was a pretty long 35 days of being full-on," she said in a phone interview. Her next priority is spending a few days with her grandchildren, she said.

Savoie can afford the extra breathing room because she was incumbent going into this election. Her staff is already arranged, and the 35 days of being full-on were just a hiatus from normal operation.

"Sadly, only 59 per cent of the Canadian population voted [in this election]," said Savoie. "I think some of that is due to disenfranchisement because of the new Conservative election laws."

Bill C-31, passed in 2007, requires voters to bring some kind of identification and proof of address with them to the polling station. According to the Elections Canada report on the new system, more than nine in 10 voters felt that meeting the ID requirement was easy. However, critics of the system have said that it strongly affects several groups of Canadians.

Those who will vote if it's convenient may not have ID with their address on it and may not want to make two trips. Those who may not have ID or an address, like the homeless, cannot vote even if they are on the voter list. As Savoie stated, this election did see a record low in voter turnout.

Savoie said she would seek to rectify the type of situation faced by the NDP, who historically receive about 10 per cent of the seats in the House of Commons but receive about 20 per cent of the popular vote, by reforming the electoral system to "some form of proportional representation."

Affordable housing, she said, is her first priority with this government.

"I'm ashamed of the way Canada's dealing with it," she said, adding that climate change was also high on her personal list of issues.

Savoie could not comment further on any NDP priorities, as the party will be establishing those at a caucus in the coming weeks.

Elections Canada: UVic polling station a success

Kat Eschner

Despite a record-low voter turnout in last week's federal election, the polling station at UVic was considered extremely successful, even with minor problems.

"Many, many students came and got in line thinking that just because they went to UVic they could vote there," said Robert George, Victoria Returning Officer. "[But] there were still a lot of people that came that shouldn't have been there."

George said that he spoke on CFUV and had information kiosks set up on campus leading up to the election. However, votes processed this year were about 800, compared to 80 in the 2006 election.

"We had a tremendous turnout," said George. "Overall, I think it was quite successful."

Because of the huge rise in the number of voters, George said that many of the elections staff were harried throughout the day and not prepared for the large influx.

Students living in Residence were supposed to have an attestation from the university to prove that they lived on campus, but the elections staff had a list of students who lived at the university just in case.

To alleviate problems next election, George said one of the things Elections Canada will do is have bigger posters at the beginning of the lines so that voters aren't confused.

FEDERAL ELECTION RECAP

Ottawa's deck remains unshuffled

Steven Harper's calculated electoral gamble fails to shake up Parliament's appearance

Cody Willett

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

If seats in Parliament were the prize in a game of craps, Stephen Harper's bet that he could win over the House of Commons only paid enough to let him gamble another day.

Taxpayers forked over $300 million to Elections Canada for Harper's 2008 election wager, but decided to keep him hooked with a slightly strengthened minority government.

In the early stages of the campaign, the Conservatives polled 17 per cent ahead of the Liberals, but by early October the momentum Harper enjoyed slowed as his opponents piled on sharp attacks about the tumbling economy during the leaders' debates.

That momentum all but stopped when the Tories proposed life sentences for youth offenders convicted of violent crimes and labelled artists complaining about federal funding cuts as gala-hopping elitists. Such stances didn't play well to the Québécois, whose votes would have been crucial in giving Harper a majority government.

Within a week of the Oct. 14 vote, some polls were showing the Liberals coming within five points of the Conservatives. Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion's message that the economy was tanking without adequate intervention by Harper's government seemed to be getting traction with worried voters.

Voters who were already hesitant to believe in Dion's readiness to be Prime Minister swung back to the Conservatives just before the Thanksgiving weekend, when CTV News made the controversial decision to air outtakes of Dion taking three tries at answering an awkwardly-worded question during an interview in Halifax.

Election night coverage that first promised a white-knuckle thrill ride quietly reverted to the tried and true election night narrative of how big the win would be, rather than who would win. Suspense surrounding the possibility of a majority government win was quickly thwarted.

Green Party leader Elizabeth May was the election's first notable casualty, having been unable to defeat incumbent Conservative Deputy Leader Peter MacKay in his Central Nova Scotia riding. May did secure a record amount of voter support for a Green candidate standing for election, earning 32 per cent of the vote in the absence of a Liberal candidate. Strategic voting to limit Conservative benefits from a split in the progressive vote may have caused the Greens to be shut out across Canada.

In Quebec, Harper managed to hang on to his 10 seats, but Conservative Cabinet Minister Michael Fortier lost his bid to give the Conservatives an urban foothold in Montreal. Justin Trudeau, son of former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, won his first seat in House of Commons for the Liberals.

Although they were again denied any representation in urban Toronto, the Conservatives took the most seats in Ontario, usually a Liberal bastion.

NDP candidate Linda Duncan beat Conservative incumbent Rahim Jaffer in Edmonton-Strathcona to deny the Conservatives another sweep of Alberta. In B.C., Blair Wilson lost the Green Party's only seat to the Conservatives as other regions posted gains for the NDP and Conservatives.

Conservative Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn managed to hold onto his Saanich-Gulf Islands seat against Liberal challenger Briony Penn, despite NDP candidate Julian West dropping out of the race before the election. Victoria residents are sending NDP MP Denise Savoie back to Ottawa with a comfortable win by over 10,000 votes.

Barring slight changes due to three judicial recounts in close races, the Conservatives will form a larger minority government, having gained 19 seats to finish with 143. The NDP also gained several seats, but failed to leapfrog the struggling Liberals as the government's official Opposition. The Bloc's 50 seats in Quebec prevented Conservative ambitions for majority government.

The Liberals earned dozens fewer seats than they did in the 2006 election en route to their worst performance since they were leaderless in the 1867 election at Confederation. Dion accepted his fate after taking almost a week to decide, announcing he would resign at a leadership convention that could take place as early as May 2009 in Vancouver.

After spending more than $300 million in troubled economic times on an election voters didn't really want to entertain (as new records for low turnout show) only to get essentially the same governmental result, all parties find themselves in a difficult position heading into dark economic times.

The Prime Minister has indicated that he's willing to work with the other parties, but with the opposition leaderless, demoralized and/or broke, it's anyone's guess when the next politician will try their hand at winning the House.

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Student vote could decide municipal election races

UVSS wants commitments on late-night transit

Tim Lindsay

The UVic Students' Society (UVSS) and the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) are teaming up to field a survey of eight questions to all the candidates in the upcoming Victoria, Oak Bay, Saanich and Esquimalt municipal elections.

The two student societies, which together represent some 25,000 students in the region, say they plan to make the survey results available to their members in the weeks leading up to the Nov. 15 municipal elections.

"If we all voted we could really tip the balance of who got elected and who's running the city while we go to school," said UVSS chairperson Caitlin Meggs.

The survey's questions focus on the themes of housing, transportation, poverty and health, and waste reduction. Meggs says affordable housing — and being able to find housing at all in Victoria — is a huge issue for students.

"There are a lot of municipal bylaws that make that even more difficult, such as not allowing secondary suites and the archaic Saanich bylaw that says you can't have more than four unrelated people living in a house," said Meggs.

Richard Park, a UVSS director running for Victoria city council, says being a student has made him aware of the shortage of affordable rental spaces for those who can't pull off a spot in residence.

"I was actually kind of homeless for two months last year," Park said. "If I'm experiencing this problem, how many other students are also experiencing this problem?"

Municipal issues that directly impact students include housing and transit service, but students also care about a wider range of issues like curb-side composting, sewage treatment and homelessness, said Meggs.

"The things that affect us most are municipally based — even house parties and how much life and culture there is in the city we live in," she said.

Meggs says she realized the importance of municipal government when the UVSS began its ongoing campaign for late-night transit service.

"We need to push municipal politicians to make it a priority to put funding into making transit go later, so we can get home from the library when we stay late and so we can get home from the bar on a Saturday night safely," Meggs said.

UVSS joins Saanich group "re-inventing" citizenship

Saanich Civic League volunteers make it their mission to go door-to-door asking voters about their values

Tim Lindsay

"I am sick to death of people trying to sell me on a political candidate or a belief," said Sher Morgan, chair of the Saanich Civic League (SCL).

Those seem like strange words coming from a person whose group is dedicated to increasing voter turnout in the upcoming Nov. 15 Saanich municipal elections.

Morgan's point is that citizens are rarely inspired when somebody talks to them about a specific issue like sewage treatment: they either support it, reject it or shut down entirely because they don't have an opinion.

What is lacking, says Morgan, is "civic engagement" – something the SCL is trying to foster by going door-to-door in the community and asking people questions about what they value.

"If you ask people about what they desire and value in their community, then you engage people's brains and hearts," said Morgan. "When you ask people about what they love, it's easier for them to go to the next step of saying, 'I will act for what I love and value in my community.'"

Only 19 per cent of voters participated in the 2005 Saanich municipal elections, down from 25 percent in 2002 and 30 percent in 1996. That low voter turnout is what prompted the formation of the SCL, which is modeled after a similar citizen-led initiative in Guelph, Ont.

Morgan said a group of Saanich citizens came together, and through consultations identified a shared set of 10 core values which they used to come up with survey questions to engage citizens. They struck a committee to review three years of Saanich council motions to identify how incumbent councilors voted on issues that relate to those values. In the coming weeks, the SCL will be writing profiles on each candidate to post on their website.

In August, SCL volunteers surveyed 300 people in 14 Saanich neighborhoods. Morgan said it "blew our socks off" that each interview took a full 45 minutes on average.

"People really did want to talk about what they value about their community," she said. "We realized there was huge potential for citizen engagement despite the low voter turnout."

Morgan readily acknowledges that the survey results are not representative of the whole community.

"I think students and younger people generally are going to have different priorities than the areas we surveyed," admitted Morgan, before pointing out that some 2,000 students who reside on campus are located in Saanich.

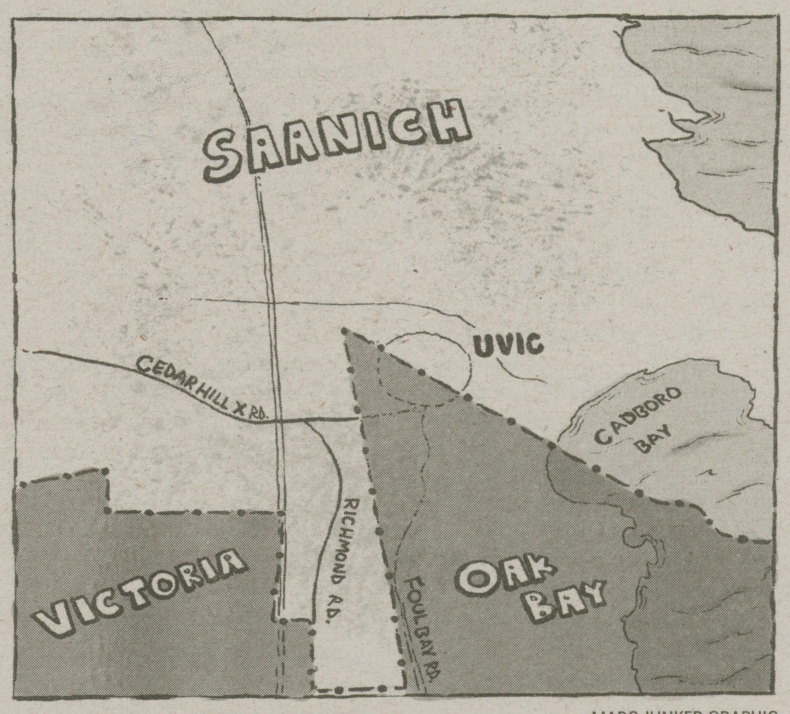
UVic students can vote if they are B.C. residents and have lived in the municipality for 30 days. Morgan was astonished to learn that an estimated 7,000 UVic students live in Saanich, especially since just 15,700 people voted in the last election.

"That's the largest single demographic group that could influence who's elected to Saanich council this year," said Morgan.

On Monday, Oct. 20, the UVSS Board of Directors voted in favour of enlisting the UVSS as an organizational member of the SCL.

"The [SCL] shares a lot of the values that the UVSS holds," said Ed Pullman, UVSS director of academics. "They stand for inclusive communities, local food, strong public transit, and active citizen engagement. The UVSS supports all of these causes."

To take the Saanich Civic League survey, go to the bottom of the online version of this story at martlet.ca.



MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

Up to 7,000 UVic students live in Saanich, including 2,000 on campus.

ARE YOU ELEGIBLE TO VOTE IN SAANICH?

If your postal code starts with V8N, V8P, V8X, V8Z, or V9E, you vote in Saanich. Most of V8Y is Saanich, plus some of V9A and V8R. To be eligible to vote you must have lived in Saanich for 30 days, have lived in B.C. for 6 months, be a Canadian citizen, and be 18 or older.

B.C. Single Transferable Vote gets another chance

Alina Wilson

Despite a widespread lack of understanding about the B.C. Single Transferable Vote (BC-STV) system in the last provincial election, voters will have a second chance at allowing electoral reform during a referendum in the May 12, 2009 provincial election.

In the 2005 referendum, nearly 58 per cent of voters supported BC-STV, and passed it in 77 of 79 ridings. However, the Campbell government required a double-qualified majority, which consists of 60 per cent of the popular vote and over 50 per cent support in 60 per cent of the ridings, to adopt the changes. By contrast, the 1995 Quebec referendum on separation only aimed for a 50 per cent majority to split Canada apart.

BC-STV is a type of voting known as Proportional Representation (PR). In Western Europe alone, 21 of 28 countries use a form of PR. Ireland and Malta use specifically STV.

B.C.'s First Past The Post (FPTP) system is a type of voting known as Single Member Plurality (SMP). Forty-five per cent of people living in democracies use SMP. With FPTP, each party can run one candidate per riding. The voter votes for one candidate only, and the candidate with the most votes wins the seat. In this way, majority governments don't necessarily result from the winning party obtaining a majority of voter support.

Before the 2005 referendum, 160 randomly selected British Columbians formed the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform. After 11 months of studying different electoral systems, listening to the opinions of other British Columbians and discussing options among themselves, the Citizens' Assembly submitted a report to the provincial government that recommended BC-STV.

Under the BC-STV voting system, riding sizes increase, with more than one MLA elected per riding. Parties run slates of candidates so that voters can choose between candidates as well as parties. Voters rank the candidates in order of their preference, across party lines if they wish, numbering as many candidates as they choose from the available choices. For voters who prefer to vote for only one candidate, they may rank only that person.

How many votes each candidate needs to be elected in a riding is based on the number of candidates running, the available seats and the number of valid votes cast.

According to Dennis Pilon, UVic political science professor and a member of the National Council of Fair Vote Canada, supporters and opponents alike complained about a lack of public understanding of BC-STV in the first referendum. For this referendum, the B.C. Government will fund a 'yes' committee and a 'no' committee to properly inform voters. Last time, the groups had to find their own funding.

The arguments made against BC-STV by Know STV refute almost every point made by the Citizens' Assembly. Pilon said that just as both sides have some suspect arguments, there are solid points that can be argued both ways.

Many aspects of BC-STV depend on individual judgment to make them negative or positive. For example, FPTP regularly produces majority governments, has smaller ridings and involves a narrower group of political participants. BC-STV would likely lead to minority governments, provide more proportional representation, and help third parties. Under FPTP, the Bloc Quebecois can win 50 seats with 10 per cent of the national vote, and the Green Party zero seats with seven per cent of the national vote.

Pilon predicts less negative strategic voting with BC-STV, because people wouldn't worry so much about "wasting" their vote. Rather than voting to keep someone out, voters would vote for someone they actually support.

The Know STV website states that multiple MLAs will reduce accountability. However, Pilon says that multiple MLAs mean that citizens are more likely to have MLAs who share their views, and therefore represent them better.

Some groups, like Know STV, don't oppose PR systems as a rule, just BC-STV in particular. Pilon stresses that the important thing is to push for PR as a voting system, rather than any particular system.

This coming May, voters will have another shot at passing their own judgment on BC-STV, potentially resulting in a complete change in what happens when votes are counted.

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Youngest council candidate optimistic for Victoria

Kim Magi

If there's someone down at City Hall who will get the youth voice heard, it's Victoria City Council candidate Joseph Boutilier.

Boutilier, who turned 18 earlier this year, will be running for the first time on Nov. 15.

"I cycle everywhere, pretty much," he said, even arriving for an interview with his bike helmet still on. The issue of more bike lanes and better public transit top his agenda, as well as the environment, economy and housing.

"First and foremost is the housing issue," Boutilier explained. "We simply cannot afford to live in this city."

It's no secret that Victoria is in the middle of a housing crunch, and Boutilier wants to help find solutions — especially for students.

"There's not really a cohesive youth strategy [in City Hall]," Boutilier said, "[but] I think a lot of these youth issues will become mainstream issues very soon."

For the past four years, Boutilier has been involved with the City of Victoria Youth Council (CVYC), a group which strives to give young people in the city a place for civic engagement. CVYC coordinator Linley Faulkner believes that Boutilier has the ability to make an impact at City Hall.

"As a young person he has more innovative ideas," Faulkner said. "Age shouldn't matter for political representation."

Having Boutilier elected would be great for the CVYC, added Faulkner.

"He would be our ally, our direct link [to City Hall]," she said. "He really wants to bring voice to the youth council at a more official level."

Besides being the youngest candidate in the running this year, Boutilier stands out another way: his $0 donation campaign.

"It's not a $0 campaign," he clarified, explaining that he will be using his own money to fund himself through the election. "People started offering me donations, and I was reluctant to take them, then I started to refuse them as politely as I could."

Having to say no every time someone offered him a contribution, Boutilier decided to make it part of his campaign.

"This whole campaign is too financially driven," he said.

Instead of spending a lot of money on signs and radio spots, Boutilier plans on getting his word out through the Internet. Currently, he's campaigning through Facebook, the Vibrant Victoria forum and his own website, FutureIsNow.ca.

"I think it's true that there's a huge population online," Boutilier said of the people he's trying to reach.

Another reason that Boutilier decided to run this year was because three out of eight council members are stepping down, which he says is a big deal, and uncommon for so many councilors to not seek reelection.

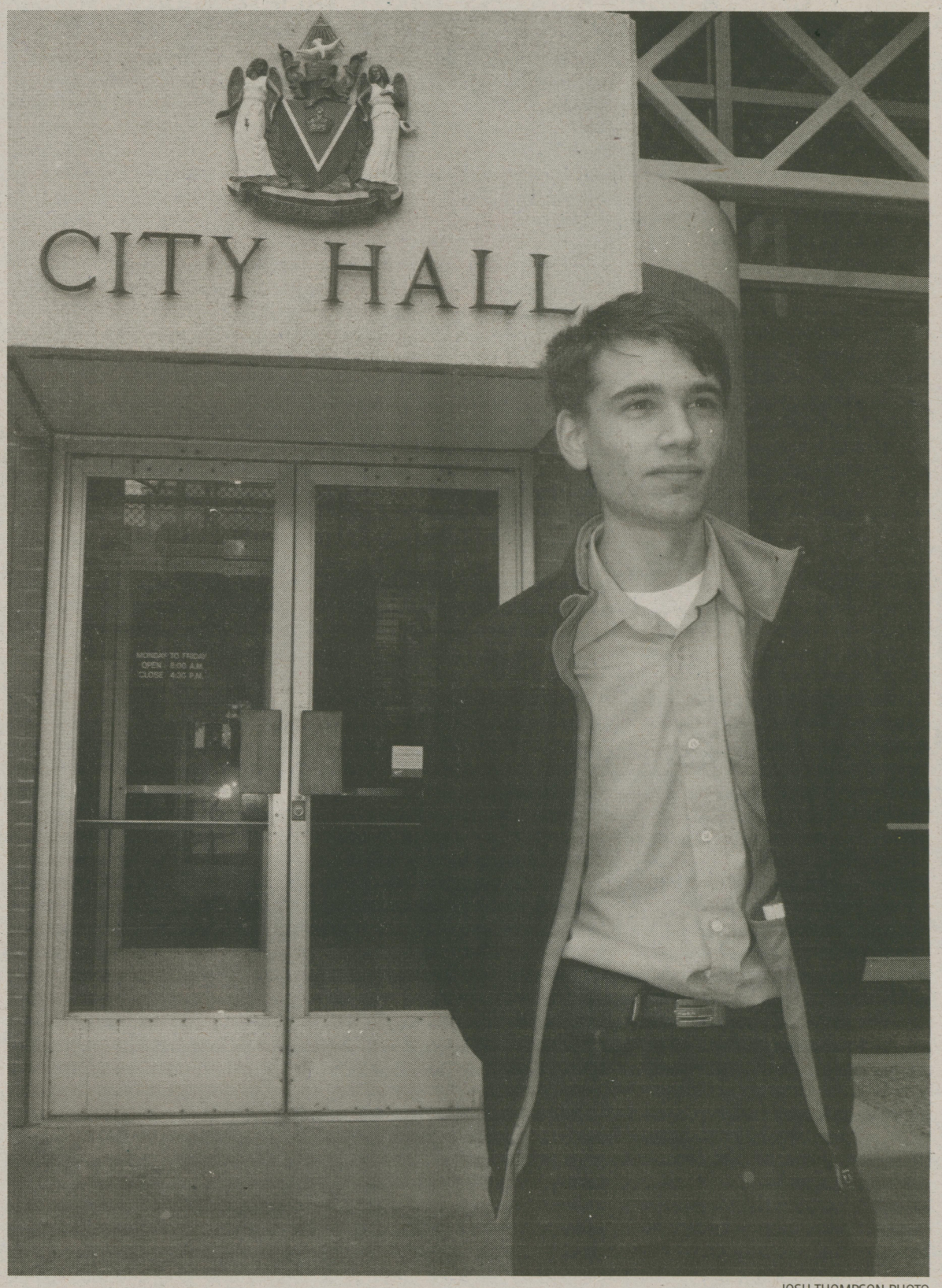
However, this year there are 35 people vying for the eight spots, as opposed to 2005's election when there were only 28 candidates.

Along with his campaigning, Boutilier works as a youth engagement worker for Youth Core, a Victoria-based project that focuses on community and leadership for people up to the age of 30.

Boutilier grew up in Victoria, where he was home-schooled. While his main focus right now is getting elected to council, afterwards he hopes to pursue a university degree studying criminal justice and, of course, political science.

Coming from a fairly tight-knit family, Boutilier says that he doesn't know if his parents fully agree with his politics, but says they're "definitely supportive."

"I mean, I'm pretty sure they'll vote for me," Boutilier said.



JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

Eighteen-year-old Joseph Boutilier is running for Victoria city council for the first time this year.

Fringe parties important for alternative political voices

Kristen Wagner
INTERCAMP

EDMONTON (CUP) — As the federal election fades into memory, fringe parties, such as the Communist Party of Alberta, are appraising the success of their mission not just to win seats, but to spread knowledge about their party doctrines.

"Fringe parties are important instruments for bringing alternative voices political voices into the political arena," said Chaldeans Mensah, a political science professor at Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton, Alta. "They mobilize people who seek to bring specific issues, often ignored by the mainstream parties, to the wider voting public."

Mensah says the threat posed by fringe parties, however insignificant, is important to bring healthy competition to the political sphere. Sometimes, fringe parties rise the ranks to become formidable political contenders.

"You could argue that the former Reform party started as a fringe party, and later became an important force in Canada's political system," he said.

However, the competition usually wins in a landslide, as fringe sympathizers end up voting for mainstream parties to avoid "throwing their votes away."

According to Elections Canada, candidates from fringe parties secured less than one per cent of the popular vote during the last federal election in 2006.

"People are just voting for the [party] that will harm us the least," said Cindy Bugiak, MacEwan student and Communist Party supporter.

"Everyone just compromises — everybody just votes for the top two or three [parties] just because they think [the party they like] will not get in and people's votes won't count for anything."

According to Naomi Rankin, the Communist Party of Canada candidate currently running in Edmonton-Mill Woods-Beaumont, drawing attention to a party's ideals is the important thing, whether or not votes are won.

"It is much less important to us that the Communists hold positions in government than that the working class control the government," she said.

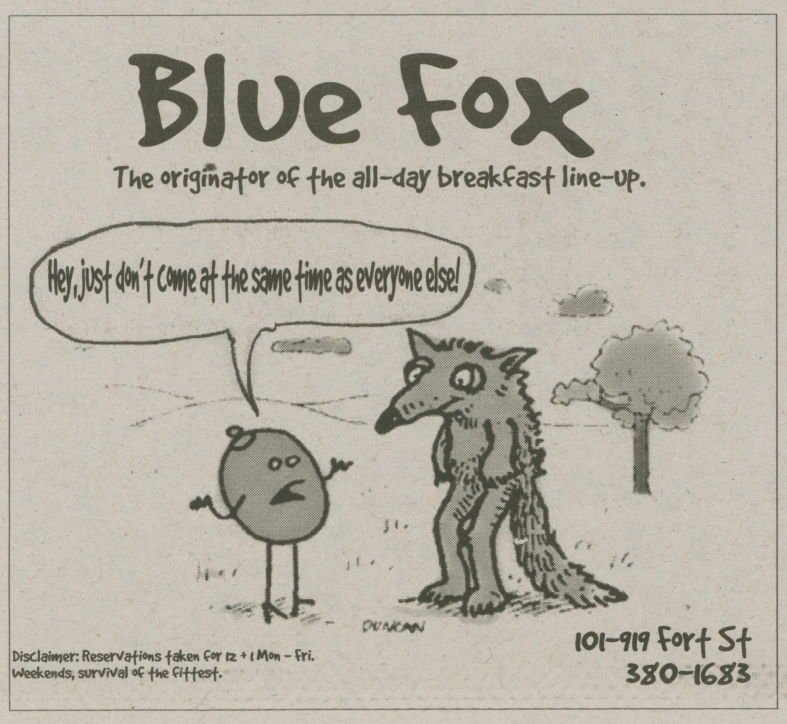
The Communist Party did elect a candidate to parliament once — in Montreal, in 1943, under the banner of the Labour Progressive Party. He served for four years before he was framed for espionage and sent to jail.

"Obvious nonsense," said Rankin. "Even if he wanted to spy for the Soviets, who was going to tell a Communist MP any secrets to pass on?"

Rankin says the major challenge facing fringe parties is finding alternative methods of disseminating their ideas, as traditional TV and radio ads are not affordable.

But, by finding alternate media to present their forum, fringe parties, and particularly the Communist Party, avoid the corruption of the political debate in modern commercial media, she says.

"It isn't just that [mainstream media] present an outrageously biased, anti-worker, anti-communist viewpoint, although they do," said Rankin. "They also generate the sound-bite universe, which discourages in-depth discussion or real debate."



ANDREW SMITH PHOTO

Vikes Janelle Smith attacks against a Trinity Western defender.

Vikes win Canada West division crown

Kristi Sipes

After securing the right to host the Canada West conference tournament, the Vikes have nothing to lose heading into their final regular season game this weekend.

The Vikes won the regular season title by beating the second-place UBC Thunderbirds 2-1 in Vancouver on Saturday, Oct. 18.

Head coach Tracy David discussed the end of the season prior to Saturday's first meeting with UBC.

"I think that we have team chemistry right now," David said, praising her team for how well they have been playing recently. "We have a very deep bench."

The depth gives her flexibility in starting line-ups as well as in substitutions. David also praised the leadership of her veteran players, saying they "know what the league is about" and have the intensity needed to be competitive.

David noted that by this point in the season, it is unusual not to have played the Thunderbirds.

"We're not going to change anything in the way that we're preparing," she explained. "We know that the game is not going to be an easy one."

David added, "battles between UBC and UVic are classic." Going into Saturday's game, UBC had allowed the least goals in the Canada West conference with just four allowed in 12 games.

David explained the threat the Thunderbirds posed to the Vikes' strikers.

"[UBC is] solid through the midfield and through the back four," she said. "[But] I have the utmost confidence that we can score goals [against UBC]."

David's confidence was proven correct on Saturday when the Vikes netted two goals against the Thunderbirds. Janelle Smith scored the first goal, her fifth of the year, with an assist from Kendra Flock. The Vikes' second goal came on a penalty kick taken by Sarah Cameron.

Although UBC has not been scoring many goals, David said their offence is dangerous on free kicks.

"[UBC forward] Caitlin Davie is a very talented player," David said. "She's a dead-ball specialist."

Davie leads UBC in scoring this season with six goals.

The Vikes' defense, however, kept the Thunderbirds' leading scorer off the board. Despite having 13 shots in the game, UBC notched one goal by Michele Yakashiro off of a throw-in.

David has her eye set on the Vikes going to the CIS nationals for their fourth straight year. The top two teams after the conference tournament earn spots in the national tournament.

"Our fate is in our hands, and at the end of the day, that is what you want," David said.

The final regular season home game is a rematch with the Thunderbirds on Saturday, Oct. 25, at noon.

The Canada West tournament begins on Thursday, Oct. 30 and includes the top six teams in the conference. The Vikes and the second-place Canada West team will enjoy first-round byes in the tournament.

ANDREW SMITH PHOTO

The UVic men's soccer team will need Cole McFarlane to continue his scoring ways in this week's match against the UBC Thunderbirds.

Vikes to face off against UBC for title

Kristi Sipes

Going into last weekend's matches, UVic men's soccer head coach Bruce Wilson said his side faced a difficult battle.

"It's going to be a tough couple of games," he said. "[Lethbridge and Calgary] have nothing to lose."

UVic, on the other hand, had a lot at stake in the two games. UVic travelled to Alberta, tied with the UBC Thunderbirds for first place in the Canada West conference. The bitter rivals will face off next Saturday, Oct. 25 at Centennial Stadium.

At the culmination of the regular season, the first-placed team earns the hosting rights for the Canada West conference tournament.

The Vikes have the luxury of being an experienced team, Wilson said.

"We're doing very well this year," he said. "All the credit has to go to the team. The players that come to UVic are disciplined and they work hard."

On Saturday, Oct. 18, both the Vikes and UBC played to scoreless ties, keeping them even in the standings. The Vikes were in Lethbridge to play the Pronghorns while UBC was in Calgary playing the Dinos. Vikes goalkeeper Dan Kilpatrick recorded his fourth shutout of the season.

The Vikes' match against Calgary on Sunday, Oct. 19, was another scoreless draw until the 80th minute, when the Dinos scored on a deflected corner kick. The defeat, combined with a 1-0 UBC win over Lethbridge, knocked the Vikes into second place.

A win against UBC (8-0-5) this Sunday would give the Vikes (8-3-2) the right to host the conference tournament, which starts Nov.1.

Hosting the Canada West tournament would be an advantage for the Vikes, Wilson said.

"Our players didn't enjoy the turf at UBC," he said, referring to a tough 1-0 loss to the Thunderbirds on Oct. 4. Wilson added that the Vikes are "really keen" to play on the home grass instead.

"Our goal is to make it to nationals," said Wilson. "In order to get to the national finals in Ottawa, we need to win the first game in the Canada West tournament."

The conference tournament is structured as a four-team playoff with the top two teams going to Ottawa. Last season the Vikes were eliminated by UBC who went on to win the national title.

COMING UP

- **Men's Soccer:** The Vikes host UBC at 2:15 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25 at Centennial Stadium in a head to head match for the Canada West Divsion title.
- **Women's Soccer:** The Vikes host UBC at 12 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25.
- **Men's Rugby:** The Vikes travel to Velox Field on Saturday, Oct. 25 to face the Velox Valhallians at 2:45 p.m.
- **Rowing:** UVic hosts the Head of the Gorge rowing competition on Saturday, Oct. 25 and on Sunday, Oct. 26 at the Head of the Elk.
- **Swimming:** Commonwealth Pool is hosting the first leg of the Men's Senior Circuit on Saturday, Oct. 25 and Sunday Oct. 26.
- **Basketball (Pre-Season):** UVic men's and women's basketball teams will travel to Edmonton on Oct. 24 to face off against the Golden Bears and then to Saskatoon on Oct. 25 to play the Saskatchewan Huskies.

IN THE NEWS

- **Rowing:** During last weekend's inaugural Western Canada Rowing Championships in Fort Langley, the Vikes crews won 12 of 16 events.
- **Men's Team:** The UVic men's rowing team captured golds in the single, pair and four and the same in lightweight categories to finish with 25 pts. ahead of UBC's 10 pts.
- **Women's Team:** The UVic women's team won both novice races with convincing victories.

Boxing: the new way to get a sharp workout

Jonathon Wolsey

Nothing beats letting loose on a punching bag after a long day in the classroom.

Luckily, the first boxing club in greater Victoria has now been established. Capital City Boxing is the newest gym on the block, with tons of opportunities for students and those looking for a challenging workout that will test your limits and get you in the best shape of your life.

Located off Douglas on Alpha Street near Mayfair Mall, the gym offers a coaching staff experienced both on the domestic scene and on the international circuit. Chris Jones, President of the Victoria Amateur boxing Association , has boxed, judged and now coaches in the gym. English boxer Stuart Green has two Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) middleweight championship titles and has competed with the 1994 English Olympic squad.

Owner and coach Sandy Ibrahim holds a British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) fitness leader certification, and focuses on the athletic conditioning technical aspect of boxing.

"Because I am a fitness trainer, I pick up what is current in the world of fitness," she said. "I try to bring as much of that into here, and translate it to how it is going to be relevant to boxers."

Depending on what an athlete wants out of the sport, Ibrahim's club offers several choices. Fitness boxing is offered for those who seek an alternative method of exercise, while recreational boxing is offered for those who choose to focus on the technical aspects such as sparing. Boxing classes are offered for those wishing to compete in amateur boxing.

"Most people want to come in for fitness at the beginning, [and] then work their way into sparing," Ibrahim explained.

Capital City is especially unique in boxing training because of the use of a wide variety of devices to train the athlete.

"I have an infinite number of drills, so each day they do something different," Ibrahim said. "My goal is to confuse the muscles as much as possible so that they don't plateau."

Capital City is the only gym to focus solely on traditional boxing in Victoria. While other gyms focus on Mix Martial Arts (MMA) and kick boxing, Capital City focuses on the basics with hopes of putting boxing in the spotlight.

The gym provides a tough workout for athletes of any background by using cross training, a method that focuses on developing muscle strength, speed, agility, coordination and self-discipline.

The UVic elite girls basketball team, for example, will be in this month to train at the gym.

Ibrahim believes it's a non-intimidating environment.

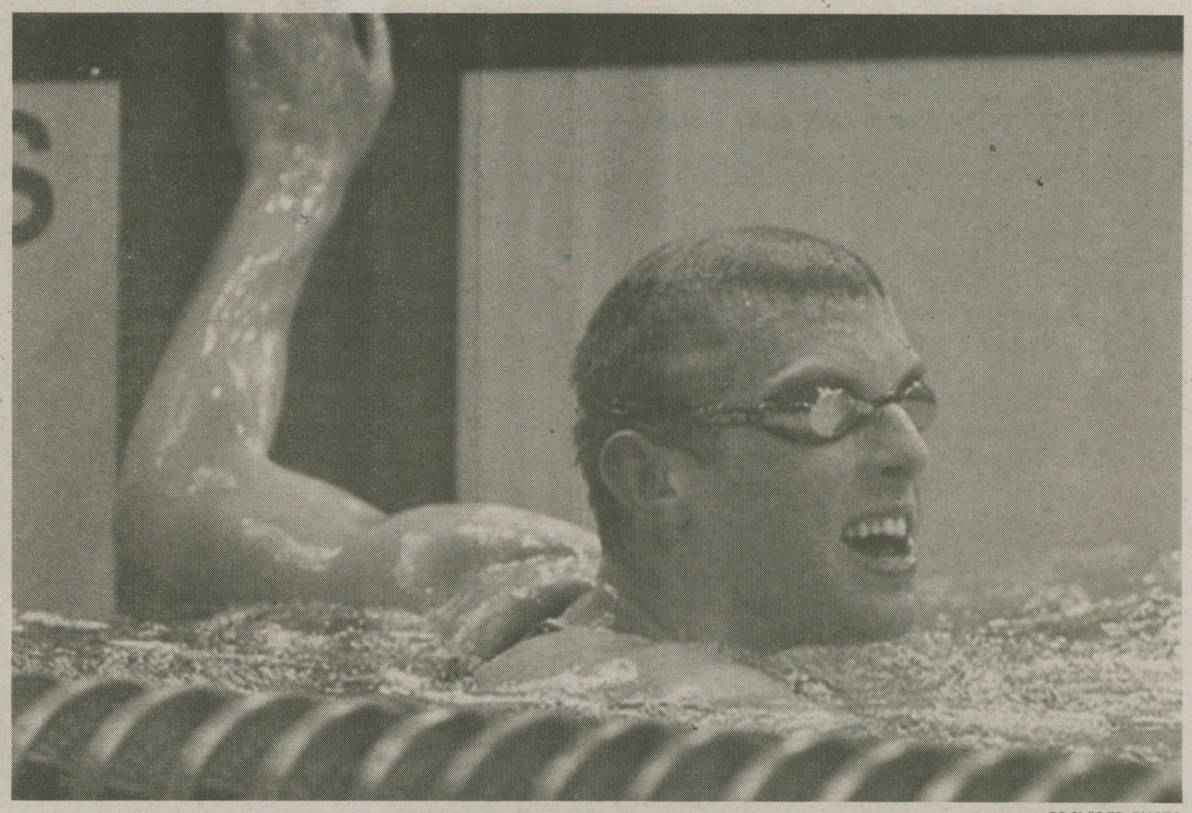
"We are trying to build a strong community here," she said. "All the boxers know each other on a first name basis."

Classes allow for a student's flexible schedule — three classes each day are drop-in classes.

Jason Booth, new to the program commented on the commitment aspect of training in boxing.

"[I'm] usually motivated to do this," he said. "It feels really easy to come to [sessions] — it's not something I have to push myself to go to."

For those looking for a challenge both physically and mentally, Capital City Boxing's programs may satisfy your drive.



PROVIDED PHOTO

Ryan Cochrane took the bronze in the 1500-meter swimming event at the Beijing Olympics this summer.

UVic student storms onto scene

Matt Lundy

Ryan Cochrane has stormed his way onto the international swim scene. Despite his worldwide recognition, this young athlete hasn't let swimming run his life.

The 19-year-old UVic student won the bronze medal for Canada in the 1500-metre swimming event at the 2008 Beijing Olympics this August.

Unlike fellow athletes, Cochrane envisions a life outside of his sport.

"I see myself outside of swimming," he said. "Whereas I think most athletes, when they get out of their sports, have nothing."

Cochrane did not put off his post-secondary education in favour of a full-time training schedule. He jokes that he would graduate at the age of 35 if he put off school until his swimming career is finished.

"I can't wait eight years to start school," he said. "I want to get most of my school done, so that when I finish swimming I can start my real life."

Make no mistake, Cochrane's determination exceeds any definition of average. He always wants to win, and regrets aspects of his Beijing Olympic bronze medal finish — a race in which he led his competitors for a large portion of the swim.

"I thought the first half of the final went well, and then the second half was not how I expected it to go," said Cochrane. "Being that close to the top of the podium is frustrating, especially when it's an event that's 15 minutes long and I was two seconds off."

Cochrane's win, however, did provide salvation for a young Canadian Olympic swimming team. Despite a slew of personal bests and Canadian records, the team had not finished on the podium prior to his bronze medal finish.

The future does look bright for the Canadian swim team. For many on the squad, the Beijing Olympics was their first taste of international competition.

"There are so many guys 20-and-under coming into the international scene," said Cochrane. "We can expect multiple medals in London."

Between now and the 2012 Olympics in London, Cochrane will compete in several competitions including two World Championships and the Commonwealth Games.

"Most male swimmers are done by the age of 25 or 26," said Cochrane. "It's a short career and I want to make the most of it."

Rest assured, when his career is over, fans won't have to see Cochrane come out of retirement, or take a brief foray into baseball.

Salmon Kings silence Thunder

Philippe Granger

After coming off their dominant 2007-2008 season, the Salmon Kings will try to pick up where they left in their home opener this Friday, Oct. 24, at the Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre.

The puck drops at 7:05 pm, as the Salmon Kings take on the Stockton Thunder, the first of three consecutive matches between the two sides.

After coming up short against the Utah Grizzlies in the second round of the playoffs last May, the Salmon Kings hope to rekindle their scoring touch that helped them secure their West Division Championship title last season.

A fresh start was needed to help suppress the disappointments from last year's playoffs. New General Manager and returning head coach Mark Morrison has appointed Wes Goldie as his new Captain for the 2008-2009 season, with Tim Wedderburn and Matt Kelly wearing the A's. Goldie, entering his third season with Victoria, has led the team in goals in both of his previous seasons on the Island.

Goldie and Wedderburn are considered veterans by East Coast Hockey League (ECHL) standards. Goldie has participated in 524 games in his nine years as a professional, with Wedderburn playing 376 games over seven seasons. Matt Kelly has suited up for 123 games over two years of professional play.

After the Salmon Kings signed an affiliation agreement on July 18, 2006 with the Vancouver Canucks and the Manitoba Moose, an influx of experienced players have raised Victoria's level of play to a higher standard. The agreement introduced impact players including Canucks exports goaltender Julien Ellis, forwards Marc Andre-Bernier and F.P. Guenette and defenseman Patrick Coulombe. The Manitoba Moose, Victoria's American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate team, has sent over defenseman Matt Kelly and forward Shaun Heshka.

The Salmon Kings compete in the ECHL, the third-longest tenured professional hockey league behind only the National Hockey League (NHL) and the AHL. The league is often a stepping stone for professional players on their way to the national league. In the past seven years, over 210 players have been scouted through the ECHL to play at the highest level.

In hockey-starved Victoria, the first home game of the 2008-2009 season is sure to be a fast paced display of long-awaited entertainment.

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Vikes loss to Calgary concedes division crown to UBC

Eric Hertz

A heartbreaking goal with three minutes left was too much for the Vikes to overcome on Saturday, Oct. 18, as they fell 2-1 to the Calgary Dinos.

The Vikes' chance at a Canada West division title will now have to wait until next season with UBC clinching the crown after UVic's loss.

Saturday's game opened to a high intensity level with strong defence being shown by both sides. The momentum quickly shifted, however, as Calgary's series of short corners began to pose a strong threat to the UVic net.

Vikes goalie Kaitlyn Williams came up with a brilliant sprawling save on the third short corner but was unable to stop Kaitlyn Longworth of the Dinos from scoring on the fourth. Longworth tipped the ball through heavy traffic in front of the net for the first goal of the game.

Calgary maintained the pressure for most of the first half, with solid defence from Laural Kuntz and Emma Guppy. Much of the play was in the UVic half until Vikes Sumeet Aujla broke through and netted the Vikes' first goal on a cross from Captain Ali Lee.

At the start of the second half, both goaltenders were tested and responded spectacularly. Williams came up with a clutch diving save off of an open Dinos shot for the Vikes, while Dinos Stephanie Petrowitsch came up with a big pad save off of a Vikes short corner to keep the game tied at 1-1.

The Vikes came close to scoring with a deflection off of a Calgary player, but the ball narrowly missed the net going high and wide. Jasleen Aujla and Angela Buttress also came close to scoring for the Vikes but could not convert — both narrowly missing the net with hard shots.

Kaitlin Longworth of the Dinos tried to make the most of a defensive miscue when she went in alone on a breakaway, but Kaitlyn Williams was able to produce another spectacular save then clear the rebound to safety.

On a Calgary short corner with three minutes left, Kaitlyn Williams made the first save but was unable to keep the ball out as Michelle Roydhouse scored Calgary's second goal, the game-winner. An unlucky bounce off of the first save left the Vikes' goalkeeper helpless as Roydhouse scored on an open net.

"Calgary played a very good game," said UVic coach Lynne Beecroft. "They utilized their speed and capitalized on their chances."

Due to the loss on Saturday, and point spread in the Canada West standings, UBC has now claimed their sixth consecutive conference crown.

SANDRA MINARIK PHOTO

Vikes midfielder Sumeet Aujla attempts to steal the ball from a Calgary Dino during Saturday's 2-1 loss.

Hockey Night in Canada theme song is back with a new twist

Dorian Geiger

Something groundbreaking happened in the world of hockey over Thanksgiving weekend.

No, Sidney Crosby didn't have a nagging hang-nail or receive a new, flashy corporate endorsement.

On Oct. 12, media mogul CBC declared Colin Oberst's musical compilation "Canadian Gold" as the winner of the new Hockey Night In Canada theme song contest.

After 39 years of assuming the role of Canada's second national anthem, the iconic, infamous Hockey Night In Canada theme song has been stripped from CBC's airwaves and pushed off to CTV.

It was a strange and unexpected swap that produced an unsettling feeling within many fans that no other theme song could have triggered.

CBC pulled the plug on the tune in June when negotiations broke down with Dolores Claman, the composer and owner to the theme songs's rights. CTV will now use the theme during televised hockey games on syndicate sports network TSN and also plans to use the theme in conjunction with hockey games being played during the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

CTV also plans to slightly re-orchestrate the old theme, and has changed its new official name to the Hockey Song. But CTV assures that the theme will still be widely recognizable.

Oberst was awarded $100,000 and half of the future royalties from CBC. "Canadian Gold" is a one minute, 18-second melody that incorporates a unique Celtic flavor. Oberst's steady bouncing theme is complimented by bagpipes and an orchestra of instruments that has "hockey feel" scribbled all over it.

MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

Oberst, a 37-year-old elementary teacher and musician out of Beaumont, Alta., beat 15,000 other anthem entries, including runner-up 13-year-old Torontonian Fraser Burke's piece titled "Sticks to the Ice."

CTV also announced that Canadian punk rock band Simple Plan is set to record the rock version of the song. But while it isn't hard for hockey fans to support Oberst's new theme, endorsing a poppy emo band may prove to be another story. The original HNIC theme could once be heard from the cell phones of hockey fans everywhere — now passionate Canadians will have to learn to love a new theme, or deal with the tragic departure of the song.

After all, lonely ears can always visit the old CBC Hockey Night In Canada theme song at its new home on TSN with a quick click of the remote.

Vikes Scoreboard

Women's Field Hockey - Oct. 18
UVic 1 Calgary 2

Women's Field Hockey - Oct. 19
UVic 2 Calgary 0

Men's Rugby - Oct. 18
Castaway Wanderers 18 Uvic 11

Men's Basketball - Oct. 18
Bishops 51 Uvic 69

Women's Basketball - Oct. 18
Laval 62 Uvic 73

Men's Basketball - Oct. 19
Carleton 73 Uvic 64

Women's Basketball - Oct. 19
Ryerson 44 Uvic 57

Women's Rugby - Oct. 19
UBC 37 Uvic 0

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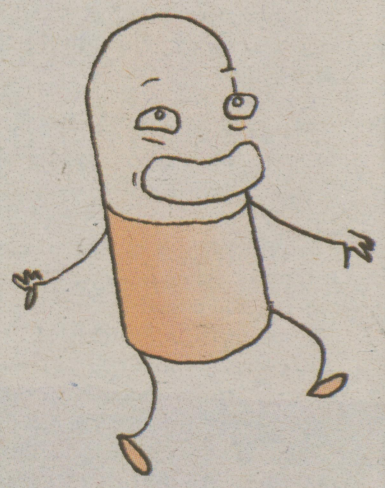


Students turn to prescriptions for boost

Drugs are getting easier to get from doctors and dealers

by Kristen Theodore of The Link
Illustrations by Jennifer Zhou

MONTREAL (CUP) — Sometimes, just the thought of cracking open your all-too cumbersome textbook to page 174 and reading several more chapters can seem utterly unbearable. With midterms looming on the horizon and grades at stake, many students are turning to the power of prescription pills in order to stay regulated, focused and ahead of the game.

It's not uncommon for students to become overwhelmed in the academic environment. Once the pressure is on, coping gets harder. As prescription pills become more prominent, some students are questioning if popping a pill is an easy time management fix, and if usage will become more legitimate with time.

"I'm a huge procrastinator," said "Christina" (not her real name), a second-year arts student at McGill University in Montreal. "I tend to leave big projects until the night before the due date, which means I'm under pressure to do a lot of work in a short time."

Christina, not unlike other students, has faced unforgiving mountains of homework with limited time. And whether the stress is self-inflicted or not, the work has to get done.

For Christina, as well as many other students, energy drinks are ineffective means of staying focused, as they have the tendency to wear off only after a few hours. In order to cope with her never-ending stream of papers and other important projects, Christina turned to Ritalin and Provigil — two over-the-counter drugs.

Provigil is a drug often given to those who suffer from serious bouts of narcolepsy, obstructive sleep apnea and shift-work sleep disorder. Ritalin, a drug normally prescribed to those who have a difficult time concentrating or individuals plagued with hyperactivity, helped Christina focus on her studies. As a result, she was able to get more work done.

"[Ritalin] made me super focused so I just steamed ahead with work and did nothing else," said Christina.

Those who take the same prescription drugs Christina used report a heightened sense of focus that helps render their studying altogether less tedious and enables them to get the job done more efficiently. Though these drugs are not intended for casual use, Christina found her experiences were positive.

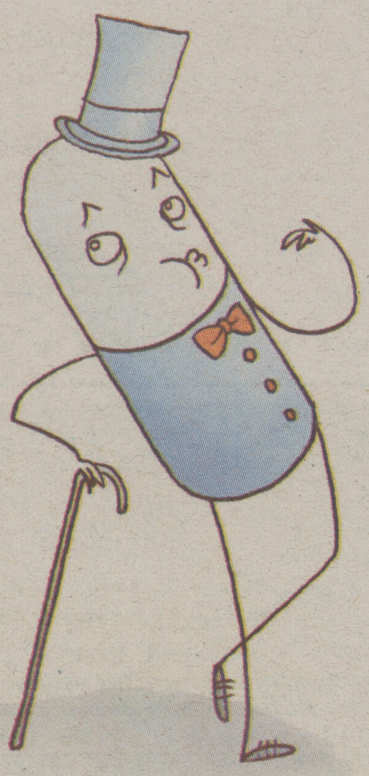
"[Provigil] kept me awake much longer than caffeine," she said.

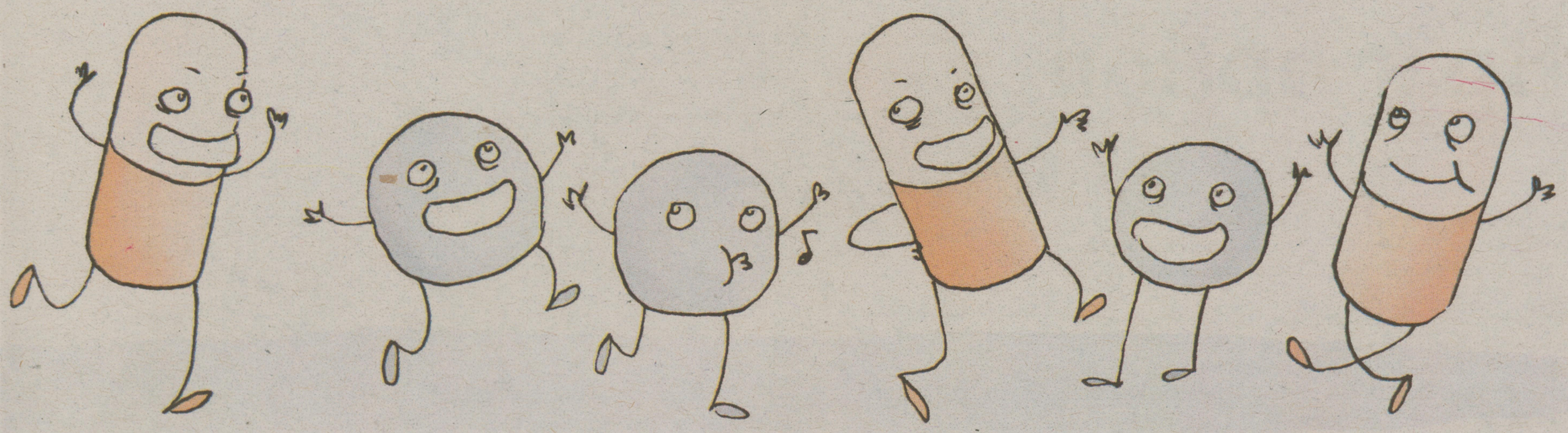
While the drug's side-effects are said to include headaches, nausea and stuffy noses, Christina experienced none of these symptoms.

"When you're in a panic, they seem like a really good solution. Like, hey, pop this pill, and you can stay up all night, no problem."

While Christina has dabbled in other recreational drugs, like marijuana and alcohol, she says her use of prescription pills was intended only for the benefit of her academic productivity.

Christina isn't alone in turning to prescription drugs as a way out of tough academic situations. In recent years, the use of pharmaceuticals as self-prescribed study aids is becoming more frequent. In the 2003 Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey, 2.9 per cent of high school students had access to Ritalin and had used it as a "focus-aid." By Grade





11, that number increased to five per cent as the students climbed the academic ladder. According to Statistics Canada, the numbers have remained relatively high in boys and somewhat lower in girls.

Similarly, an Atlantic Canada survey by the Canadian Medical Association Journal in 2001 figured that out of almost 14,000 randomly selected students, 700 had been taking Ritalin and other drugs, such as Dexedrine and Benzedrine, for non-medical use.

From 1985 to 2002, requests for Ritalin prescriptions alone spiked 600 per cent in Canada. As use among campus students is becoming more widespread, critics are questioning the rampant accessibility of these medications. How do students get a hold of Ritalin when they don't actually have Attention Deficit Disorder?

According to "Amy," a second-year McGill student, getting drugs is not difficult. Pills, it seems, are becoming increasingly available to anyone willing to seek them out.

Amy herself has developed an affinity for prescription pills, though she has never used drugs to study. She simply used them for a high. Amy says crushing Ritalin and snorting it increases the effects of the amphetamines it contains.

"I just go to a walk-in clinic, give them a list of symptoms, and they prescribe to me whatever I need," she said.

Effortless journeys such as these often result in the easy acquisition of sleeping pills, stay-awake pills, or even antidepressants. A simple Google search can conjure up a list of the symptoms needed to sound believable to an on-the-clock doctor — a fact that is beginning to worry professionals.

"You just need to go to different clinics where they don't have a file on you," said Amy.

But if that expedition seems time-consuming, students on campuses all across North America have found even less complicated means to access prescription pills. Some reuse and recycle old prescriptions they've had for Ritalin or Adderall, another amphetamine meant in the past to treat narcolepsy and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Others need go no further than their own campuses. Pills can be acquired so long as students know where to look – from your friendly small-time dealer (often a fellow student) for about $3 to $5 a pop.

Websites all over the Internet also advertise a cheap, anonymous way of obtaining medication online, in a user-friendly fashion. All that is required is a credit card.

Despite the ease with which pills are available, medical professionals (and the labels on the back of most prescriptions) caution users against the dangers of incorrectly using drugs, using unprescribed drugs, or mixing drugs. Symptoms can range from the warnings on each drug label, to dangerously elevated blood pressure levels, to death — a high price to pay for a study hit.

Yet often studying doesn't seem as much fun as going out with new friends and drinking, and students can easily find themselves overwhelmed by juggling several priorities at once.

"Angela," a former McGill student now studying at Concordia University in Montreal, often fell behind in her schoolwork. Once she got involved with a sports team, she found it difficult to balance doing her homework, playing sports and maintaining a healthy social life. She also turned to prescription drugs.

"During the season, I would do sports, see my friends, and usually school would come last," she said.

After trying Ritalin, Angela was able to sit still and focus on her studies instead of drifting off. Acquiring the drugs was the least of her trials.

"At McGill, my dealer was just walking up and down the hallways of the library, making deals," she said.

Angela says prescription drug use seems a little more low-key at her new school.

"[At Concordia] I've heard a couple of people talk about it on campus, but it's still a little more quiet."

She also believed that the ingredients used were different, and says she noticed an immediate difference when taking the pills from her new school.

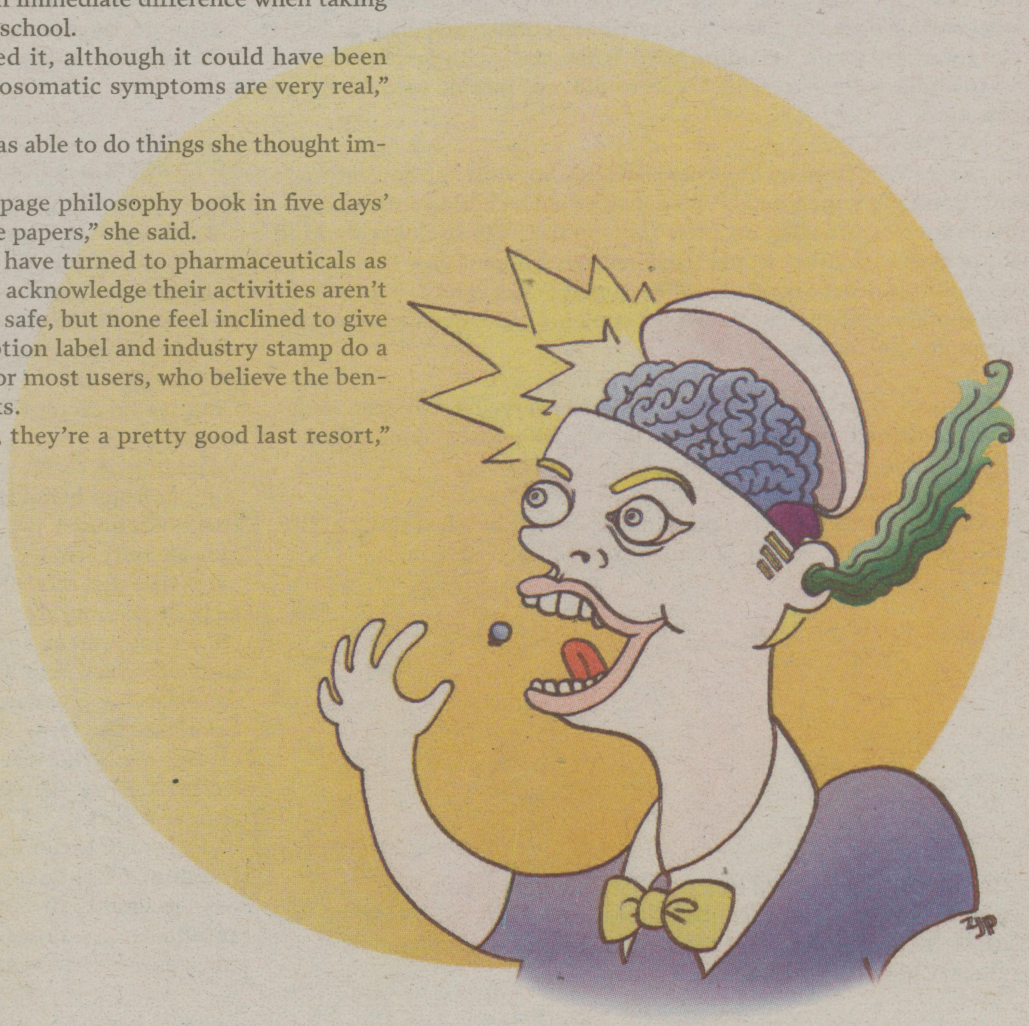
"I completely noticed it, although it could have been psychosomatic. Psychosomatic symptoms are very real," she said.

Regardless, Angela was able to do things she thought impossible.

"I could read a 500-page philosophy book in five days' time. And I could write papers," she said.

Those students who have turned to pharmaceuticals as an answer or a fix may acknowledge their activities aren't what many would call safe, but none feel inclined to give them up. The prescription label and industry stamp do a lot to allay fears and for most users, who believe the benefits outweigh the risks.

"If you're desperate, they're a pretty good last resort," said Christina.



EDITORIAL

Privatization a SUBpar option

Just imagine this.

You're walking through the doors of your Student Union Building, ready to pick up your Bean There coffee before you grab a donair from the International Grill and snatch a copy of Adbusters from SUBtext.

You turn the corridor, only to see a beaming red Tim Horton's staring you down with a lineup longer than what you'd see at the UVic Bookstore on the first day of classes. The smell of doughnuts fills the air. Not far away, a teeming McDonald's fills the hallways with the mouth-watering scent of french fries.

Beside McD's, Naanwich has replaced the international spectrum. Hudson News stands confidently where SUBtext once was. Even the hole-in-the-wall that used to be Zap now beams an inviting Monk Office sign.

You stop and look around. Are you at the UVic SUB or the Vancouver Airport?

While privatization might not be this extreme (or graphic), it may be time to do that double take, because some advocates are crying out for this to become a reality. Many students believe this would be a cure-all for the current strike. But should we be embracing this?

Whether or not privatization is a good thing for the UVic student body really depends on your view-point. And as usual, there are pros and cons to every side.

There are tons of people who would celebrate the arrival of Ice Caps to the SUB, or would love to pick up a meatball marinara six-inch from Subway. Campuses across the country have embraced these corporations: why shouldn't we?

UVic as a whole has largely avoided mainstream outlets in the past, and prides itself on being one of the few institutions to do so. The SUB, however (and the UVSS) have always seemed to march to the beat of a different drummer.

This year the UVSS decided to boot out otherwise cross-campus Pepsi when they forged a contract with Coke — who's to say the SUB can't do everything different from the rest of the university?

And maybe this is a solution. Could privatizing the SUB finally bring an end to this interminable strike? Everyone could breathe a deep sigh of relief and leave all this ugly business behind.

Then there are other ways of privatizing, like doing a split of private and SUB-run businesses, or selecting only local businesses to spot our SUB. Having a Timmy's might seem sacrilegious to some, but how about a student-run Black Stilt coffee house?

But with privatization comes a lack of control. Currently, the UVSS could enforce a policy that would force all businesses to sell only biodegradable packaging and make environmentally-responsible decisions regarding waste. Wielding those commands with private businesses would not work — the UVSS would only be able to make the suggestion.

Also, wages vary from business to business. So while the current wage dispute and the impending UVSS deficit could be healed a little from outside sources whisking up a few spots in the SUB, students working right next to each other would likely receive different pay. That is, unless we mimic other universities like Simon Fraser. The SFU Student Union Building subsidizes the wages students make by tagging a little extra on to student fees.

In addition to a lack of control over products served, waste managed and wages earned, the SUB could be faced with masses of more foot traffic, and the debris that comes with it.

Of course, flooding the SUB with business won't be a bad thing in the coming months, but selling out might not be the best answer.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at our weekly editorial meeting at 2:30 p.m. every Friday in the Martlet office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

MEET INTERESTING PEOPLE AT HALLOWEEN HOUSE PARTIES!

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

LETTERS

Proud single woman

Your story "In the Cougar's Den" was offensive to women everywhere and very shallow.

Firstly, why is an article on single, older women "looking for love" important enough to make the center spread?

What about the men in the world who do the same thing?

Would anyone even think to write about all the "studs" in the world who go out in hopes to "pick up women?"

There seems to be a double standard when it comes to this issue with men and women, and your publication helped facilitate that.

Secondly, are there not more important issues happening in the world to inform the public about?

It would make sense that a high number of your readers are students with curious and impressionable minds. Why would you want to pollute those minds with trashy stories that are better suited for tabloid magazines?

Jill Kissick
Community member

YPY's agenda is not a secret

Stuart Armstrong has his knickers in knot over Youth Protecting Youth using the expression "the obligation to choose wisely," which he sees as the height of duplicity, somehow concealing YPY's secret, pro-life agenda.

But it's no secret YPY is against abortion.

And it is no secret where YPY is coming from: belief in a morality that holds human personhood begins at conception.

It is true that this offends greatly against the morality of the pro-choice movement and the law of the land, which permits any doctor to assist any pregnant woman to terminate the fetus she has conceived in mid-heartbeat with less legal restriction than is required to remove a wart.

YPY would certainly curtail the freedom of thousands of B.C. women (and their boyfriends) to extend their adolescence with consequence-free sex.

But how does that stack up against the denial of life to 14,000 or so unborn children in British Columbia annually?

Steve Weatherbe
Community member

YPY complies with policies

Many people believe that "clubs that receive UVSS clubs funding must be in compliance with UVSS policy" ("Anti-abortion group wants club funding, Oct. 9).

However, they are mistaken. The phrase "UVSS policy" does not appear in the Clubs policy manual at all.

Clubs must follow clubs policy, not UVSS policy. YPY has fulfilled all the requirements in clubs policy.

The UVSS did not always permit such freedom of association and expression. Back in 1999, clubs were forced to comply with every policy of the UVSS, including its policies on NATO, sport hunting, and free trade.

After YPY lodged a human rights complaint against the UVSS, the requirement for compliance was struck from clubs policy.

Clubs with minority opinions are now, at least in theory, free to exercise their freedom of association and expression without fear of discrimination.

Thus, although YPY complies with UVSS policy, its compliance is actually irrelevant. No requirement for compliance exists, and to deny YPY funding based on non-compliance is an arbitrary exercise of power.

I hope that all students, regardless of their views on abortion, can at least agree on this: that at a university, the free exchange of ideas ought to be fostered rather than suppressed.

Monica Murphy
President, Youth Protecting Youth

YPY has poor vision

There will be no need for a review of whether YPY should be given funding.

The UVSS Policy Manual states that "The Society supports: The fundamental right of all women to control their bodies... [and] Freedom of choice in the matter of abortion."

This is in direct conflict with what YPY President Monica Murphy stated point-blank in The Martlet (Oct. 8): "... we believe that this freedom [to control one's body] does not extend to harming the body of another human being, and we believe that the unborn is a human being and person."

Nobody is saying that being pro-choice makes one a cheerleader for abortion, and most believe that abortion is a choice of last resort.

Thus, it is possible to fund a group that dissuades women from choosing abortion, but it is not possible to fund one claiming that abortion is an immoral choice. (A small but important difference.)

To declare, as Murphy did, that "the freedom to choose is always accompanied by the obligation to choose well, and we believe that choosing life is always the right choice," is really a way of saying that abortion is never a morally legitimate choice, because obligations always precede rights.

If she means what she said, then she's an extremist.

Rape victims who become pregnant are out of luck in her book. If she doesn't really mean it, then YPY policy is not clearly formulated, begging the question "why fund a group without a clear vision?"

Nick Cohea
UVic student

Happy? Sad?
Enraged? Engaged?
Tell us: letters@martlet.ca
The Martlet has an open letters policy and will endeavour to print every letter received from the university community. Letters must be submitted by e-mail, include your real name and affiliation to UVic, and have "Letter to the editor" in the subject line. Letters must be under 200 words and may be edited.

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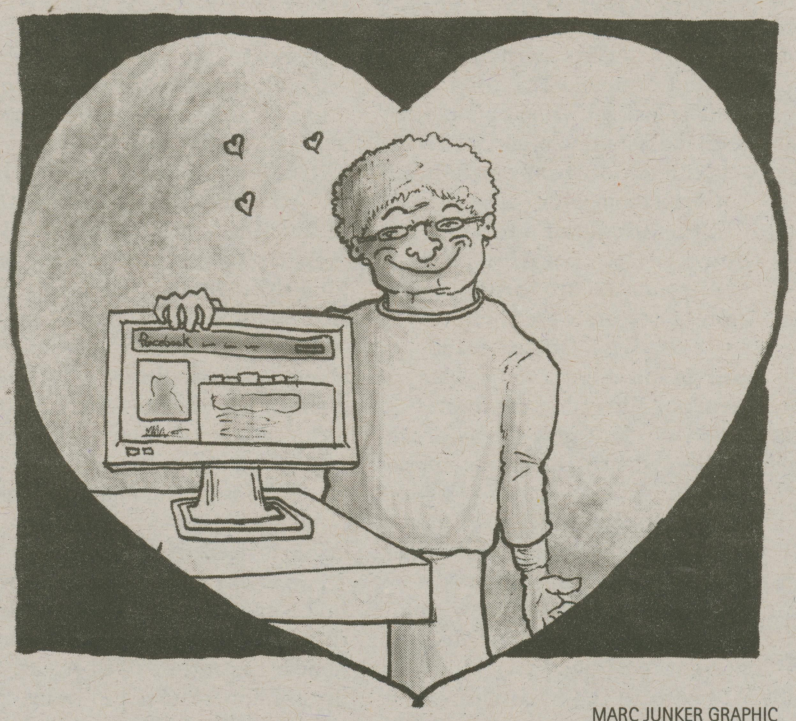
MELODRAMATIC MUSINGS

Coping with Facebook withdrawal

Will Johnson



MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

My Facebook profile was deleted. Or, as they put it in Mark Zuckerbeg's universe, my account was "disabled by an administrator."

Really, it was my own fault. I thought my semi-nude skinny dipping pictures were tasteful. Who's going to get upset over my bare ass?

But as it turned out, Facebook disagreed. They swiftly banished me, along with nearly 50 notes, several hundred pictures and a friend list that was rapidly approaching 800.

(I don't know who reported my pictures, but in retrospect I realize that my mother, grandma and other nudity-sensitive people are on my friends list.)

At first, I was surprised with how well I coped with my pacifier being torn out of my life so unceremoniously. My Internet identity had vanished, but I felt surprisingly nonchalant.

Instead, I decided to view it as a blessing in disguise, and endeavored to live an old school Luddite existence. I'd gone without Facebook for 20 years, surely I'd be okay now.

I envisioned myself exercising every morning, even reading books with my free time. People would comment that I had a new, enlightened glow. They would be drawn to me because of my technology-free energy. They would want to emulate my new lifestyle, and would quit Facebook themselves in droves of solidarity.

But that's not quite how it happened.

Instead, my free hours filled up pretty quickly with similar vices. There were new websites to check out, new television shows to watch, new distractions to divert my mind. It seemed like I was simply trying to replace Facebook — to find a younger, prettier version.

But let's face it. I'm pretty much married to ol' FB.

Just like any marriage, there's an entire lifestyle that comes with this union. If you're not careful, pretty soon you're filling your days tagging photos, creating events and writing notes. (Not to mention rejecting invites to add irritating applications.)

It's almost like slavery.

The question is whether or not this is the life partner you really want to choose. Are you becoming the type of person your six-year-old self would be proud of?

I met this Bible-thumper guy recently, who told me I was living in sin. He had that kind of annoying sincerity that makes you want to pat a person on the head and just hope they grow up one day.

Regardless, it irked me, and got me wondering whether I really like the life I've chosen, or not. If I could change something, what would it be? Would I sleep in less? Work out more? Would I move to some Third World country and hang out with orphan babies? Maybe I'd fly to Tibet and see if the monks would let me hang out in their temple.

I bet you they don't have Facebook.

But this self-reflection was short lived. As it turned out, I started a new Facebook page. There were too many people I couldn't get a hold of otherwise. The funny thing is, I have 500 less friends and I can't think of anyone who's missing. Where do all these people come from?

I've realized it's not Facebook's fault that I'm lazy. I can't blame Mark Zuckerberg for the extra 20 pounds I'm carrying around. And I definitely can't blame him for the direction I've chosen in life.

I've cut down my daily Facebook time from a couple hours to a couple minutes. Sure, I still have that involuntary panic reflex that makes me check for Facebook notifications four or five times a day, but once you start logging on less, people start ignoring you. It gets easier each day to forget about that seductive alternate world, and pretty soon you're calling people instead of communicating with them in cyberspace.

The problem is, now my phone bill is huge.

Residence life is an exercise in proximity

Jordan Burness

When one imagines their first year of university, it is usually an exciting prospect.

The idea of freedom from rules and parental figures can be a welcome thought. We come to UVic, thrilled about our futures, with the mentality of becoming an "adult."

With a guaranteed first-year residence, it is a relief to know that we have somewhere peaceful and safe to stay on our journey there.

Or so we are led to believe.

For many students it is our first year away from home. We come prepared to meet new people. With the friendly vibes given off over the first week of life in residence, it is almost impossible not to join in the festivities, perhaps even partaking in the occasional alcoholic beverage in an attempt to make new friends.

For most people this can be a great experience. But, when living in residence, it can also be hard to escape from these new friendships — if one so desires.

After almost a month of living in residence, reality hits and it becomes clear to us that we live in a world of stale food, unclean laundry and communal showering.

Suddenly that guy who we gave a number to seems a little less appealing now that we see him every day. And we begin to wish we hadn't been quite so wild at that party a few weeks back, because people are *still* talking about it.

All of this becomes magnified when school really starts and the partying really doesn't stop, and it isn't long before most students living in res begin to beg the question: how close is too close?

With the limited amount of sound-proofing in each dorm, our neighbours become less like neighbours and more like roommates.

Not only do we share showers, but we also share our most personal experiences and the occasional planter's wart.

We are all shown the glamorous side of res life in advertisements and on TV. We come prepared for the parties, but as university students we expect that our peers will respect our personal boundaries and academic needs.

When first-year grades are slipping due to lack of sleep and quiet time, should someone begin to get concerned?

Can we really expect that all first-year students have an adult mentality, or should we instead take into consideration that 18-year-olds do not always have their own academic needs as a high priority?

And as 18-year-olds should we not already be conditioned to respect people's personal boundaries?

Although we cannot force everyone to take university more seriously, we can individually work together to improve life in residence.

If everyone can listen to and respect the requests of their peers it can make the year go by a little smoother.

Residence just wouldn't be residence without the occasional wild night to get us through the boredom — just don't forget there's work to be done.

Excited about electric cars

Megan Welsh

If I hear one more crack about "Zen and the art of..." I might snap, but I can't deny that the wildly popular ZENN (zero emission, no noise) car is pretty dang cool.

I spent the summer working in transportation policy and was thrilled by Oak Bay's recent decision to open up its roads to electric vehicles.

It's been a rocky road. Until November 2007, the made-in-Canada ZENN cars weren't even approved for sale here.

The people of the Dynasty Electric Car Corporation, based out of Delta, B.C., have sold manufacturing rights to a Pakistani company, due in part to the difficulties of getting their vehicles on to Canadian roads.

The options? The U.S.-made ZAP Xebra is sleek but impractical. It's been blocked for registration in several U.S. states because its three-wheel structure can't be categorized. Is it a car, or is it a motorcycle?

Quebec and Ontario have both launched pilot projects featuring the Toronto-based ZENN and the Quebec-based Nemo, a low-speed truck. There's even the sexy (full-speed) Tesla Roadster.

According to the new Oak Bay bylaw, a permissible vehicle is one "that travels on four wheels and is powered by an electric motor that is designed to allow the vehicle to attain a speed of 32 kilometres per hour but not more than 40 kilometres per hour."

This means (in legislative terms) it falls under the low-speed vehicle (LSV) category of the federal Motor Vehicle Safety Act, kind of like the ones you've seen trundling around campus.

The ZENN and its available counterparts meet or exceed all required safety standards for the low-speed vehicle category.

However, they will be on the road with larger, better protected passenger vehicles that meet more stringent requirements before hitting the pavement. Just remember that an LSV isn't the family station wagon.

The alternative vehicle scene is growing so fast that regulators can't keep up, though they have safety and classification obligations to fulfill even in the face of intense public pressure.

Oak Bay was the first to crack the door wide open and I'd be stoked to see the idea catch fire in other Island communities.

Currently, the LSV's can't cross municipal lines, and their use is limited to where the speed limit is between 40 and 50 km/h.

They are "companion vehicles" though; short range (about 40 kilometres per charge) and intended for getting to work or picking up groceries, not highway cruising.

ZENN mastermind Ian Clifford should be commended for both his dedication to the electric car and for continuing to manufacture in Canada. Still, it doesn't stop there.

Maybe the future is fully electric, something with passenger vehicle speeds and safety ratings, more affordable than the Roadster and more local than the Norwegian Th!nk car. (Keep an eye out for the Chevy Volt).

Thanks to Oak Bay, we're at the forefront. I know the electric car community is strong on the Island and in B.C.

We're ripe for an electric car revolution.

Communication vital in petition proceedings

José Barrios

I'm one of many international students who love this welcoming and beautiful university.

I was born and raised in Mexico and have only been in Canada for three years. My family encouraged my choice to come here because Canada's educational, political and economic systems are admired by the rest of the world.

I feel privileged to be here and I'm making the most of unexpected opportunities to learn first-hand about labour relations in Canada and about Canadian student politics. Workers and employers seem to engage in the same struggle the world over. However, Canadian student politics is like nothing I've ever seen.

Although I love my country, in Mexico there is frequent misuse of authority at many levels. We recognize this problem and often question authority. We speak out, we criticize and often a lot of wrongs get righted.

The first step to correct any problem is to recognize that it exists. I see a problem in the UVSS. In Mexico, we would recognize it as misuse of authority. At UVic, there seems to be great reluctance to recognize that anything truly bad could happen here.

Last Thursday the Students' Society held its AGM. Was it open, honest and democratic? I don't think so. The location wasn't announced until the last minute, and for a society with 16,000 members the board booked a room with 156 seats.

In the middle of a total breakdown in all operations of the Society, no faculty or university administrators were there to observe or advise. Graduate students willing and able to offer assistance were not allowed in the room.

Non-student employees of the society who might have contributed their perspectives were excluded. It was well-known that a procedural question about a special resolution to remove directors would arise. Nobody with independent expert knowledge was present to address it.

I had read the bylaws carefully, sought an expert opinion and diligently followed the simple procedure that allows students to vote to remove their current directors at an Annual General Meeting should they wish to do so.

I collected four times the requisite number of signatures to place a special resolution, and the Martlet published the requisite two weeks notice of a vote for the removal of directors to take place at the AGM.

The chair and board are probably doing their best, and I think most students realize that.

Still, with an increasingly bitter strike, a chair who crosses the picket line every morning and a growing mountain of garbage behind the SUB, it is not surprising that hundreds of students want to at least be allowed to consider a change in leadership.

The option to vote to remove directors at general meetings is a safety catch so members can intervene when the wheels come off a non-profit society and a change of leadership is needed between elections.

Two weeks ago, UVSS chair Caitlin Meggs wrote in this space that there would be no opportunity to remove her at the AGM because, in her opinion, I had not followed the bylaws correctly. She was wrong.

Ms. Meggs left out Bylaw 10.4 (a) entirely and inserted the word "only" into Bylaw 10. 4 (b).

I used the process that is appropriate when a general meeting is already scheduled and the goal is to add the item to the proceedings.

> "Last Thursday the Students' Society held its AGM. Was it open, honest and democratic? I don't think so."

Now that the AGM is over, another process is needed. A special general meeting would have to be called, just to vote on whether to remove the directors.

The chair of the AGM was Amanada Aziz from the Canadian Federation of Students. Would she want the UVSS board removed? I don't think so.

With no independent advisers present, and without the bylaws in front of them, she invited students to vote on whether to accept me, José Barrios, or her, as an authority on the bylaws. Amanda Aziz told students that it would be incorrect to allow a vote on the resolution to remove our directors, and a majority of the students voted to respect the rules as interpreted for them by the chair.

Aziz radiated competence and openness. I would have believed her myself if I didn't know our bylaws inside out and backwards. Still, she also left out Bylaw 10.4 (a) and she was just as wrong, in just the same way, as Caitlin Meggs.

What can be done?

I will canvass students again, to see if five per cent of undergraduates want to hold a special general meeting and vote on whether to remove the board.

It would be best if many more than 165 students come out to vote, to ensure a substantial mandate one way or the other.

A room that can accommodate at least 500 should be reserved and the meeting should be open to the public.

The university community must be allowed to contribute to our discussion and decision making. A chair with no ties of any kind to the board is essential. The meeting must be open and completely transparent.

Anything less is unworthy of this campus and this country.

Student loan debt often just a well-disguised blessing

Jennifer Gait

With the average undergraduate debt from student loans now at $20,000 for university students ($13,000 for college students) and interest at prime plus 2.5 per cent, many believe that students are being gouged and that secondary education should be free — or at least interest-free.

But are student loans really the evil they seem to be, or could they be a well-disguised good?

Paying off $20,000 certainly constrains ex-students' ability to spend their income on everything they've ever wanted. But for the most part, their earnings after graduating are far higher than they would be without a degree, though for some degrees this increased income is not immediate.

> "Money management requires knowing what is coming in each month and exactly where it's going."

Humanities graduates may take several years to reach the earnings of an engineering graduate, but eventually they reach and can even surpass them. Without that student loan many graduates would have been unable to afford post-secondary education at all.

Studies show that as well as being richer, graduates tend to be happier, healthier and live longer lives (on average) than those without a degree.

It appears that overall, the positive outweighs the negative. Students who take charge of managing their debt now may find that paying it off is not that painful. But what does management involve?

First, be aware that most student loans involve two lenders — the provincial and federal governments. They each have different rules, and it is important to find out what these rules are, especially with respect to the number of courses required per term to be considered a full-time student, and the total length of time allowed to complete post-secondary education.

Illness or other untoward circumstances can disrupt education, and in these situations it's especially important to be proactive with respect to the loan.

There are programs in place to help students reduce their debt in some circumstances.

It helps to research these before contacting each lender to tell them what is happening and to ask for advice. Do this as soon as possible. That way, there will be no surprises, and if the lender is not helpful there will be time to get help before interest starts to accumulate.

Just as compound interest can make modest savings grow to a million dollars over several decades, it can do the same with debt.

Lower debts amass less interest, so be sure to do all that is possible to reduce the amount of debt before interest starts to accrue — then pay it off quickly.

Check the loan repayment calculator on the CanLearn website to see how relatively small changes in the debt or repayment period can save (or cost) thousands of dollars.

Paying the principal in small lump sums while still in school, and within the six-month grace period after graduation, will reduce the total amount to be paid. Finding a way to do this will require students and graduates to live within their means — an invaluable life skill.

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

Money management requires knowing what is coming in each month and exactly where it's going.

Many first-year students have never had to manage money on an ongoing basis before, so the first term may seem overwhelming.

Like most skills, money management comes with practice, but for those who are floundering, helpful advice is available from a number of places, including non-profit debt counselling societies such as www.nomoredebts.org.

Of course, bringing in more money helps. There are several ways to do this, including working regular jobs, taking part in the UVic work-study program and applying for scholarships, grants and bursaries, which do not have to be repaid.

Avoiding other debt (especially from credit cards) is vital.

Using credit cards is invaluable in building a credit rating that will enable borrowing at a low rate. However, the high interest rate (18 per cent or more) that is applied on all accounts that are not brought down to zero by the payment date each month can easily lead to increasing debt. This will make student loans very difficult to pay off.

Loans can help students reach their dreams, but loans that are not managed can become nightmares. Take charge of yours, and start to dream.

Freed from fibbing

Amy Green

"Do you ever lie, like, just because?" my roommate asked me while we were shucking corn for dinner.

"Sure, all the time," I answered.

She looked surprised as she went on to describe a meaningless lie that left her bathing in guilt.

It's not like I'm some pathological liar. I don't go around fabricating things like threatening Walking Corpse Syndrome or shark-escape adventures on the Great Barrier Reef (except maybe to that cute guy at the bar once).

But I do tell little white lies once in awhile.

Yes, I like your unreturnable, cost-me-a-fortune new sweater. No, the salmon wasn't overcooked. Hardly lies — more like fiblets.

But thinking about fiblets reminded me of something my first-grade teacher Mrs. Garren told me once when I blamed poor Tiffany Biggles for a certain paint-on-the-carpet incident: nobody likes a liar.

I remember contemplating that statement for days, sure I was wearing a "LIAR" name tag that would make everybody hate me. I vowed never to lie again, but lies are like cigarettes and not easy to quit cold turkey.

Throughout the next 15 years of my life, I kept on lying, but I wasn't alone. My parents lied about Santa Claus, my sister lied about borrowing my favourite jeans and Bill Clinton lied about his extramarital affair.

Nobody around me was quitting — why should I?

It's not like lying never got me into trouble. My mother always knew when I didn't really sleep over at Danielle's house the night before. And my ex-boyfriend knew that it wasn't me ... it was, well, him. But I've learned that lies can hurt. Sometimes they damage friendships, ruin careers and break hearts.

So why does anyone continue to lie?

I Googled "Lying AND Election 2008" and got nearly eight million results. Dion calls Harper a liar, McCain gets busted for his transgressions from the truth — it's next to impossible to keep track of who's lying and who's lying about who's lying.

I finally decided I was sick of everyone's fiblets and I came up with a brilliant idea. Why not have a Day of Honesty? I would vow to tell the truth and nothing but the truth for 24 long, lie-less hours. They say the truth always comes out eventually, so why not sooner rather than later?

The night before the big day I put a note on my alarm clock: "Remember, no lying today!" I awoke the next morning brimming with truthful intentions. But as I was stirring my pot of oatmeal, my roommate came into the kitchen with my first challenge.

"That's strange, I thought I had one more banana left," she said, as she scowled into the empty fruit bowl.

Is silence the same as lying? I decided it was.

"Oh right, I meant to tell you," I started, "I ate it yesterday. Sorry."

My roommate stormed from the room. I forgot how cranky she becomes when she doesn't get her morning potassium fix.

In my statistics class later that day, my professor asked if anybody still did not understand t-tests. Normally I'd rather die than broadcast my inadequacies, but on the Day of Honesty I put my hand up. My face turned the shade of tomatoes, but at least I left class with a better grasp on testing population means.

Before dinner that evening, I stopped at the grocery store to pick up some broccoli and ichiban noodles for dinner (I also grabbed some bananas to put with an "I'm sorry" note for my roommate). As the cashier was running my purchases through, he asked how I was doing.

"Good, thanks," I replied automatically. Then, remembering what day it was, I spoke again.

"That's a lie. I'm actually not that great," I said. "I have to bike home in the rain, and all I can afford for dinner is ichiban soup. Oh, and I have cramps."

The cashier looked almost as awkward as I suddenly felt. I'd definitely crossed the line with the menstrual cramps thing. I felt my face flush for the second time that day.

That evening, after I'd finished my less-than-satisfying dinner and had popped a couple of Motrin, I picked up my cell phone and pressed speed-dial five. There was one more thing I needed to do.

When Danielle picked up, I proceeded to tell her that I'd tried to be supportive, but I thought her relationship with her sometimes off-again but right now on-again boyfriend was unhealthy.

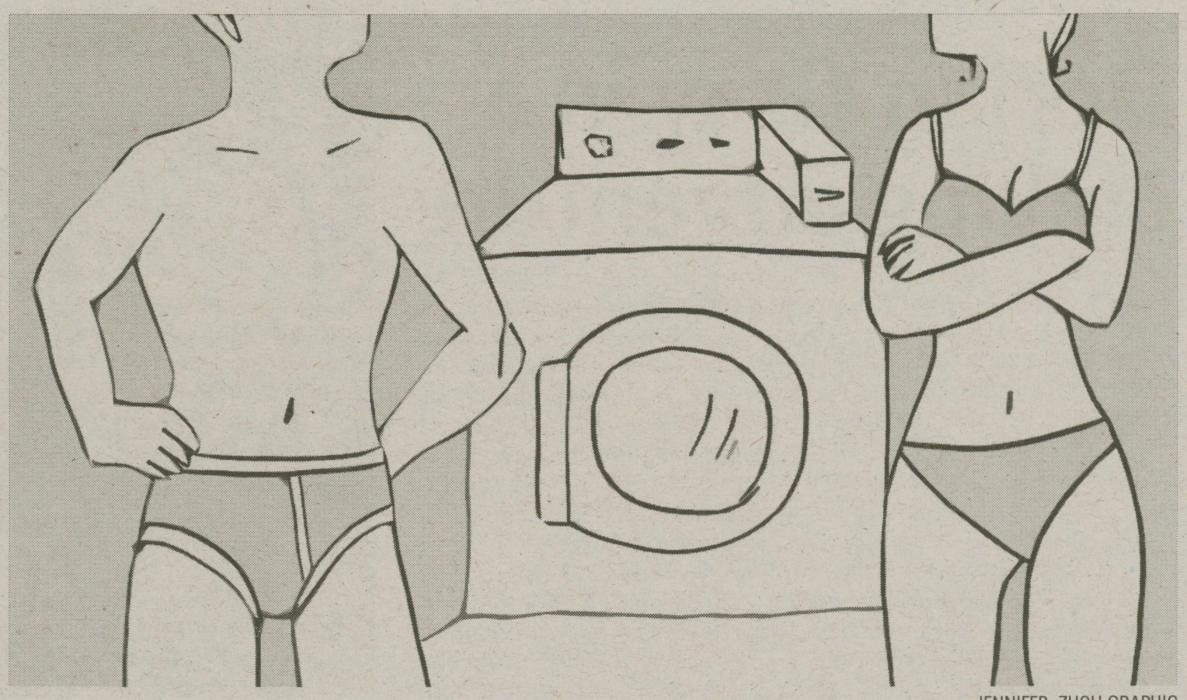
I waited for a "you're right, I'm going to end it," or at least a "thank you for your honesty, I really appreciate it."

All I got was a dial tone.

As I crawled into bed that evening, I reflected upon my day. So I'd taken responsibility for ruining my roommate's morning, and I'd shared way too much information with a good-looking cashier. I'd also cut my study time in half and told a friend something I should have told her ages ago.

I may now actually agree with Sir Walter Scott about those tangled webs we weave when first we practice to deceive.

Well, most of the time anyway.



JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

Laundry a cause for daunting dilemmas

Nathan Lowther

Who knew one load of laundry could be such a moral dilemma?

I live in an apartment, so I share a laundry room with the rest of the complex — three washing machines and four dryers, all coin operated. And it was my laundry day, the only day of the week that I don't have class or work.

The first thing I noticed when I got to the laundry room that day was the note on the board. Someone had left some pink lipstick in the dryer. The note-writer had used that dryer after for her whites, seemingly disappointed in the carelessness of her cohabitants.

The second thing I noticed in the room was the closed lids on the washing machines.

One machine was running, but the other two were still. Closed lids almost always mean wet clothes, and this was no exception.

Therein lied the dilemma: should I remove someone else's wet clothes, or not get my laundry done?

There was no basket left behind, so if did take the clothes out, I'd have to put them on the folding table. It was clean, but would I want my just-washed clothes dumped on it? No — though I would have left a basket.

I chickened out and went back to my apartment. Ten minutes later I tried again, only to find the two lids still down. The machine that was running had been promptly emptied when it finished.

> "Why should one person monopolize the washing machines while the rest of us are forced to turn our underwear inside-out?"

I had three loads to do: colours, whites and towels. I prioritized colours, put the load on, and went back to watching my taped re-runs of Oprah.

Twenty-five minutes later, my timer let me know that my wash was done. I took my second load and went back to the laundry room.

The girl from room 103 was waiting in the room. Her frustration was evident in the way she cocked her basket under her arm. She told me the machines were full.

I told her, feeling a hint of shame, that one of them was mine. I almost told her about my timer.

She looked at my dirty towels, then at the closed lids. She asked me if I knew how long the other two loads had been in.

I told her they had been done for a while, then I suggested that she empty them. I saw the look on her face that said she had been thinking just that. She quickly scanned the small room, and lamented the lack of a basket.

I figured we all needed to get our laundry done, so why should one person get to monopolize the machines all day while the rest of us are forced to turn our underwear inside-out?

We both agreed that removing clothes from the dryer was fine, basket or not.

Neither of us would have liked to come back to find our clothes folded by some stranger (maybe one who had enjoyed it a little too much), but wet clothes were a little different.

She looked intently at the closed lid. She looked at me, then at the note on the wall, and then back to the lid. I could tell we both had the same idea.

What if the laundry-doer came back to find a wad of wet laundry piled on the table and seeked revenge? Maybe that's how the Barbie-pink lipstick found its way into the dryer.

Finally, we decided to just pull out the sopping threads and pile them in a pile.

On laundry day, we just wanted to be able to get our clothes clean without dirtying our consciences.

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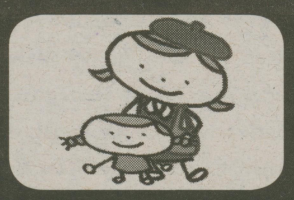

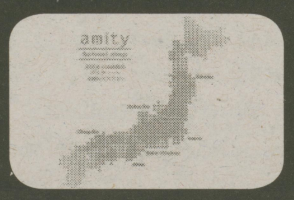

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HALLOWEEN HAUNT

Dorian Gray is a chilling adventure

What: The Picture of Dorian Gray
Where: Craigdarroch Castle
When: Until Oct. 31
Tickets: $18, $16 for castle members; call (250) 592-5323 to purchase

Kat Eschner

A greying man turns his intense blue eyes on the audience, then nods and strides out the door. Suddenly, an unnoticed painter in the corner of the crowded room springs to life. Giggling Iguana's production of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* at Craigdarroch Castle has begun.

For little more than an hour, the curious audience traverses the castle, viewing the story of the painter, the greying man, Dorian Gray, and others.

Though the mobile theatre might seem strange, it works remarkably well. Swept along from room to room, the audience is increasingly caught up in the story unfolding in front of them.

Despite the delay between scenes as everyone shuffles from place to place, the continued presence of characters directing the human traffic keeps the piece continuous.

Audience members become the listeners implied by the original novel's casual tone, just as the characters became its narrators.

At its heart, Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is a cautionary tale about the relationship between art and life. It was also the only novel Wilde, primarily a playwright, wrote.

Ian Case, founder of Giggling Iguana Productions, adapted the novel for the stage — or for the house, more specifically.

Craigdarroch Castle and Wilde's novel were completed in almost the same year, and the combination of gothic setting with an adaptation of what has been called the last of the gothic novels makes for an engaging production.

Craigdarroch has been the site for numerous past performances by the company.

They produced a popular rendition of Edgar Allen Poe's *The Fall of the House of Usher*, as well as a piece entitled *I Might be Edgar Allan Poe*. However, unlike past productions, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* will only be enacted this year.

Giggling Iguana's previous experience working in Craigdarroch Castle is evident in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. The entrances and exits of the five actors are seamless, and the piece goes off without a hitch.

Though some of the novel's vital subplots surface at odd times in the production, the performance is enjoyable and chilling, though not for the faint of foot.

JASON SHICH PHOTO

The Loading Ready Run internet comedians came together for their fifth anniversary screening on Oct. 18.

Comedians celebrate anniversary with fabulous video screening

Shandi Lindt

The Loading Ready Run (LRR) fifth anniversary screening on Oct. 18 had an over-full theatre at the Eric Martin Pavilion cheering, laughing and jeering loud enough to trump the audio. Many attendees were longtime followers of the internet-based comedians.

A fan vote to decide which three classic videos to screen resulted in a three-way tie for second, so each favourite short was shown to applause.

After, three new episodes of the ongoing series debuted. Older works, like the musical "Suspend Your Disbelief," showed how LRR has improved in audio-visual quality, writing and acting. The comedy itself, however, has been consistent since launch in 2003.

"It's something that gets better over time," said Mark Hanson, who attended the screening. When the LRR crew appeared in person, they were greeted with joking cat-calls from the crowd.

Discussion between the crew and audience slowed progression of a slide presentation by website co-founder, Graham Stark, on the evolution of LRR.

His "2008 Investors Meeting," used an "Awesomeness Graph" and pie chart (with large slices inexplicably allocated to alpacas) to outline LRR's value as a secure investment in troubled economic times.

The question and answer portion of the evening was derailed several times. Upon request, LRR co-founder Paul Saunders performed an awkward live rendition of the rap, "This is Why I'm Paul," and Stark sang Tom Lehrer's periodic table with accompaniment by Andrew Cownden on a baby grand piano rolled out from backstage.

A supplementary crew hijacked the show halfway through to present each LRR member with satirical awards including "Most Inappropriate Use of Pelvis," which went to Morgan VanHumbeck.

"We got ambushed at our own thing," said Stark. "It was pretty awesome."

Audience members were invited on stage to answer trivia and compete in a live "Iron Stomach Challenge" against 6'10-tall crewmember Bill Watt.

The evening's festivities lasted several hours, and those who left early missed seeing the latest LRR video.

The past five seasons have been mostly stand-alone sketches with vague continuity in some videos where the cast played caricatures of themselves. The season six premiere video is the first installment of a web sitcom, "Commodore Hustle," starring the crew's video selves and incorporating real-life events into the fictional scenarios.

"I really like the direction Hustle is going in," said Watt. "It's us being us. I hope people get that. You write this stuff and some people get it, you know, some people don't."

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TOP TEN

FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 21, 2008

1. DEERHUNTER
   Microcastle (Kranky)
2. DEERHOOF
   Offend Maggie (Kill Rock Stars)
3. PAUL SHAPIRO
   Essen (Tzadik)
4. MARNIE STERN
   This Is It... (Kill Rock Stars)
5. D.O.A. *
   Northern Avenger (Sudden Death)
6. RUDRESH MAHANTHAPPA
   Kinsmen (Pi)
7. FINAL FANTASY *
   Plays To Please (Blocks Recording Club)
8. THE MIGHTY UNDERDOGS
   Droppin' Science Fiction (Definitive Jux)
9. TOBACCO
   Fucked Up Friends (Anticon)
10. DUNGEN
    4 (Kemado)

* Canadian artist † local artist

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Hear the weekly top ten on Charts and Graphs every Tuesday at 3:00PM on CFUV 101.9FM.

Ohbijou's orchestral melodies warm the heart

Marri Knadle

In a brick-lined room full of well-dressed young Victorians, Ohbijou and The Acorn serenaded the ceiling with inspiring talent on Wednesday, Oct. 15 at Lucky Bar.

Ohbijou is a Torontonian band of seven, armed with sweet melodies and an orchestral indie sound. Without a record label, they've released their first album, entitled *Swift Feet for Troubling Times*, and are touring North America in the company of Ontario-based band The Acorn.

Singer-songwriter Casey Mecija took the mic on Wednesday night, and asked how Vancouver was doing. Her apology to Victoria was charming in its sincerity — a taste of her forthcoming music. Like the French word contained in their name, Ohbijou is a carefully wrought gem of a band: each track heartwarming and welcome on a rainy October night.

Mecija's voice is sweet with surprising control in the crescendos — a force of delicate strength. The pity was that the mic was too quiet for Ohbijou's set. The warmth of the instrumentals came through nonetheless, particularly the rich cello provided by Anissa Hart and the violin by the ethereal Jennifer Mecija.

Smiles between bassist Heather Kirby and Casey Mecija kept the stage warm between songs, while the men onstage — keyboardist Ryan Carley and drummer James Bunton — held their own.

Ohbijou opened with "St. Francis," a track from their 2006 album, *Swift Feet For Troubling Times*, and slid into "To Rest In Peace On Righteous Tides."

The next 40 minutes were an aural treat as Ohbijou played songs from their 2008 *Split 12"* album with The Acorn (including the piquant melody "Tender Bones"), and tracks from their forthcoming album to be released in mid-spring of 2009.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Ohbijou brought their unique sound to Lucky Bar on Oct. 15.

They slipped backstage in a din of warm claps and clinking bottles that seemed a cacophony after their treasure box of a set.

After a brief intermission, the coterie of talented young men that comprises The Acorn took to the stage. Their particular brand of humour resonated with the well-watered Victoria crowd: guitarist/ukelele virtuoso Howie Tsui rhapsodized about the delicious "sea butter in the mouth" of Ferris' oysters, and lead singer Rolf Klausener expressed a foodie bent, coining the term "gasterection" to hearty chuckles.

Once the amiable introductions and reflections on Victoria's premier oyster bar were over with, The Acorn satisfied a variety of appetites with their set. They played songs from their recent album, *Glory Hope Mountain*, as well as from their older EPs. The sextet impressed the room, inspiring a little dancing with some upbeat numbers like "Flood Pt.1" and their own abundant enthusiasm onstage. Their love of their own music was as clear as their talent — there were instrument swaps and vocal harmonies aplenty.

The Acorn showed group versatility, conveying a sound with plentiful percussion that errs on the gentlemanly side of raucous, while "Glory" displayed the more soulful element of their repertoire. On the gentler side of the end of their set was "Oh Napoleon," made all the sweeter by Rolf Klausener's happy admission that he had forgotten all the lyrics in Vancouver, but had just delivered his favourite performance to his Victoria admirers.

Halloween '08 strives to bring art lovers together

WHAT: Halloween '08
WHERE: Visual Arts building
WHEN: Thursday, Oct. 30 at 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH?: $3 or $1.50 with a foodbank donation

Karlene Nicolajsen

Halloween '08, the first Visual Arts Students' Association (VASA) event of the school year, is intended to be more than just another standard end-of-October costume bash — the night will stage a setting for the intersection of students, artists and the arts.

"Even within visual arts, the first-year and fourth-year students don't know each other, or the grad students, or the people in other programs, or the professors," said Elyse Longair, a third-year visual arts student and the Vice-President of VASA.

The plan to shake things up starts with inter-faculty collaboration.

Longair believes that ultimately, UVic students must develop a strong arts community within UVic before this community can expand out to surrounding areas.

"There is UVic, the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, the smaller galleries and the Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria, but they're all separate. We don't talk to each other," Longair said.

Longair, along with VASA, would like to see these gaps filled. She believes that fostering those relationships would allow for a wider scope in bringing more art to all of Victoria.

Halloween '08, while promising to meet the usual Halloween event expectations — a costume party with a haunted house, a dance floor, a bar and free food — also serves as an opportunity for the first step of VASA's plan: intermingling and collaboration.

Pumpkins and gourds, donated by Madrona Farm and carved by The Campus Community Garden, Rotaract Club of Victoria and visual arts students, will be displayed at the event, along with Halloween-themed artwork by both students and the community. MFA student Allison Cake will deliver performance art, and live music will be played by local bands including Hey Hey Heys and Introverter.

Marcel Reimer, a fourth-year visual arts and computer science student and the Undergrad Coordinator of VASA, has plans for a sound installation room with instruments available for free use and general sound-making, in addition to his own "noise-sound music." Another set-up will film and record the crowd through microphones, so that varying noise levels change the projection of student-made videos and other media streaming against the walls.

"Most people haven't even been in the arts building," Reimer said. "They don't know that we're here. We want to promote visual arts, get people in and show them what we have, as well as stimulate the other faculties."

Halloween '08 is the first in a series of VASA events intended to unite the Victoria arts community. A studio night, planned for the spring, will revolve around an auction of student and faculty artwork. Similar to last year's Fine Arts Students' Association event, SPRUNG, a variety of talent will be showcased through performan ces by theatre, music and writing students.

All students and community members are welcome to attend Halloween '08 and other upcoming events.

"We want to connect with all faculties, ideally," Longair said. "Everything is part of art."

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TRISHA GIENI PHOTO

Leah Wickes and Lisa Milloy rehearse Wickes' piece "Talking Hands."

ROMP! showcases unique dance talent

Trisha Gieni

Four days of dance, film and performance art will kick off on Oct. 23, when Victoria's Suddenly Dance Theatre opens their 11th annual ROMP! Festival of Independent Dance at downtown's Metro Theatre Studio.

All the independent pieces and performers in ROMP! were chosen by a jury, then formed into programs. This year, there are four programs, consisting of a variety of live performances and dance films.

The festival will begin with writers reading their work while sharing the stage with dancers interpreting their words through movement. UVic writing instructor Carla Funk will be sharing in the spoken word component, along with fellow Victoria poet Miles Lowry.

Lowry and David Ferguson are the artistic co-directors of the festival and of Suddenly Dance, which is celebrating its 16th season this year.

While festival participants come from all over the world, there are many Victorians taking part this year. Local choreographers Leah Wickes and Jung ah Chung both have pieces in the festival.

Wickes' creation, "Talking Hands," which was shown in Victoria's Fringe Festival this summer, will appear in the line-up. Together with her dancers, Wickes has reworked the longer dance into what will be performed in ROMP!

The concept of the importance of hands — and the title of the piece — came to Wickes when she was taking Flamenco classes. She said that she started paying attention to her hands and what their touch meant.

Ferguson noticed "Talking Hands" at the Fringe and offered Wickes support as she prepared it for ROMP!. Wickes took advantage of the opportunity to showcase the unique work.

Nicole McSkimming, 31, a dancer in "Talking Hands," choreographed a piece in last year's ROMP! festival and speaks highly of the experience.

"It is a great platform to show your work," she said.

ROMP! is an opportunity for those who are not necessarily part of an organized dance company to show off their talents. While opportunities like that are rare in Victoria, local dancers are hoping that fact will change.

"We all want to perform and all want something happening," said McSkimming, who has studied dance extensively and is currently teaching modern dance at the Lynda Raino Dance Centre. "It seems that Victoria is a bit small for the dance scene, so there is a middle ground that needs to be filled."

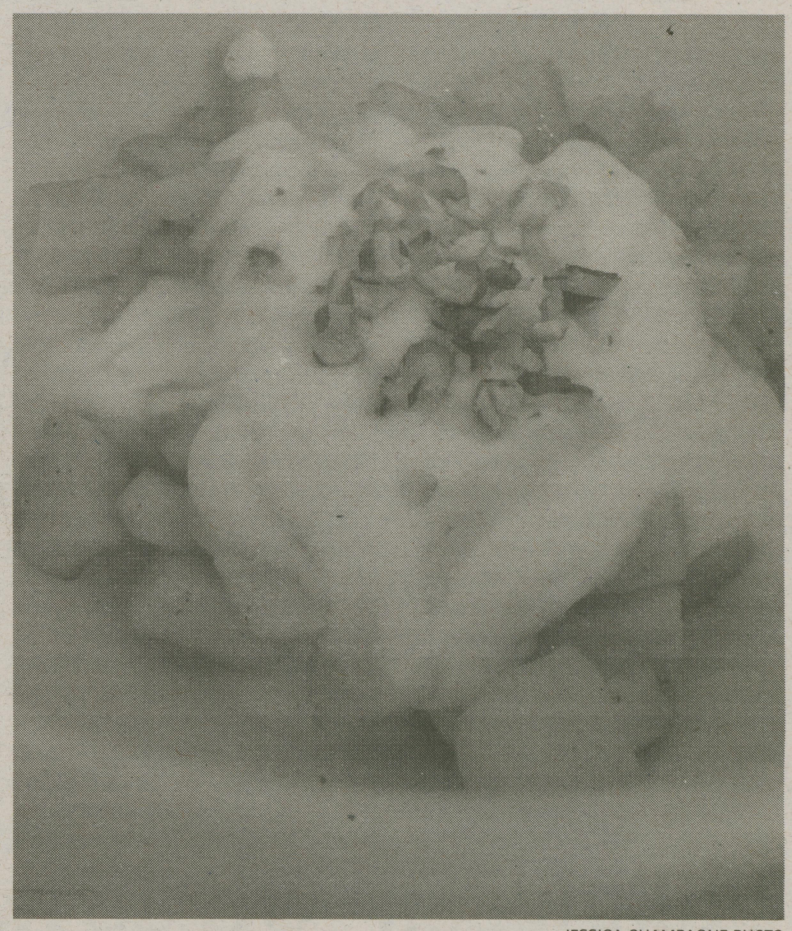
"You have to make your own opportunity in this city," Wickes agreed.

ROMP! takes place from Oct. 23 to 26. Tickets are available online at Suddenly Dance's website, or at the door. Ticket prices vary by event.

WHAT'S IN YOUR MOUTH?

Cuddle up with comfort food

Jessica Champagne



JESSICA CHAMPAGNE PHOTO

It's getting to be that time of year where all you want to do is stay in bed. You get up to go to class while it's still dark out, and by the time you're headed home again, the sun has already set.

The mountain of midterms and papers you thought was so far away is now ensuring that you have little semblance of a social life. On top of it all, it's raining out... again.

All this gloom makes you want to eat classic comfort foods, like pasta, microwaveable pizza and raw cookie dough — none of which (you know) will make you feel any better.

But there is hope for those mournful taste buds. Here are some comfort food recipes that are a little better for your body when fighting the midterm blues.

They're even made from local ingredients to help you cut down your carbon footprint, so you can start feeling better in more ways than one.

Enjoy!

SAUTÉED APPLES WITH YOGURT

Apples are also a great beginner food for those interested in eating locally, as they are cheap and readily available. In the right conditions, apples can be stored for several months.

2 apples, any kind
15 ml (1 tbsp) butter
250 ml (1 cup) yogurt (Olympic is a good local choice)
honey or wildflower honey
local walnuts (optional)

Melt the butter in a saucepan on medium heat. Add thinly sliced apples and sauté until soft. Set aside in two bowls and top with yogurt. Garnish with honey and nuts if desired. Brown sugar or cinnamon could be added to the apples, although they can't be produced locally.

Makes two portions.

ZUCCHINI AND POTATO SOUP

1 kg zucchini, chopped
10 small potatoes or 2-3 sweet potatoes, cubed
1 onion, chopped
500 ml (2 cups) vegetable broth
250 ml (1 cup) milk or soya milk
olive oil or butter
handful of fresh parsley
black pepper
cheese or cream for garnish (optional)

Fry the zucchini and onion in a saucepan with olive oil or butter. Cook until softened. Add the broth, pepper, potatoes and simmer for 15-20 minutes until the potatoes are cooked thoroughly. Add the parsley and cook another minute. Turn off the heat. Add the milk and put into a blender or use hand blender, and blend until smooth. Serve immediately. Garnish with a bit of cheese or cream if desired.

Makes four to six portions.

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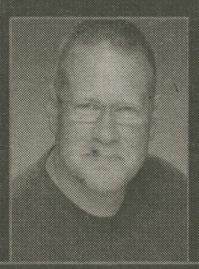

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Worms get arrogant about sliming Victoria

What: The Arrogant Worms Torpid Tour
When: Wednesday, Oct. 29. Show starts at 7:30 p.m., doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Where: Alix Goolden Hall
Tickets: $25.50 at Lyle's Place or the McPherson Box Office before; $30 at the door

Shannon Cummings

When the cheesecake you ate eight hours ago in Prince Albert becomes the highlight of the first leg of your tour, you know you've fallen into the shoes of Trevor Strong of the Arrogant Worms.

"The first few years when touring is new, everything is interesting," said Strong, in a phone interview from Calgary. "After 17 years, the most exciting thing now is trying to not crash when you're driving through Saskatchewan in the winter."

The Arrogant Worms come crawling into the Alix Golden Hall on Oct. 29 to perform music from their new CD *Torpid* and some of their fan favorites. It's the band's 12th CD release, but is unique in that it was recorded live at the Kingston Brewing Company Pub — one of the first places the Worms played when they were starting out.

Strong's personal favorite song off the album is "Blah Blah Blah" because he gets to sing in a "mopey English accent."

But sometimes The Worms' reputation for humorous tunes causes trouble. Strong recalls a hate e-mail they received from an American in response to "The Whitehouse Burned (The War of 1812)," commonly mistaken as a Worms song, but performed by Three Dead Trolls in a Baggie.

"It's sort of awkward, sometimes people are so sure it's us," said Strong. He also said that people constantly request songs like "Eskimo" by Corky and the Juice Pigs or "Cows With Guns" by Dana Lyons at live performances. "But it says a lot that people naturally attribute funny songs to us."

A lot of the confusion comes from mislabelled songs in illegal downloads. Because the band does not garner a lot of radio play, they don't mind illegal downloading too much as it gets the band's music heard. They do hope that in the future some sort of royalty system is developed.

Until then, Strong joked that downloaders should feel intense guilt and send them "a quarter or something" in the mail for every song, or at least buy something at their shows. Strong also said that they would be addressing this issue in a very special way at the show, but would offer no more than that. When the tour ends, Strong said he is looking forward to returning home to "deal with a son hopped up on Halloween candy." Strong said that in the past, Victoria has had loud crowds, and that the band has enjoyed playing in the city.

PROVIDED PHOTO

The Arrogant Worms are set to build Victoria's moral character next Wednesday at the Alix Goolden Hall.

He thinks the reason people enjoy the Worms is because unlike polished stand-up comedy, the Worms offer something different every night.

So why should the people of Victoria come out to see the Arrogant Worms perform next Wednesday?

"We're good for them," Strong said. "We build moral character, that sort of stuff."

Body of talent can't elevate Body of Lies beyond average

Ian Venables

It's a dark time when *Beverly Hills Chihuahua* is the top grossing film in theatres. And despite the star power of Leonardo DiCaprio and Russell Crowe, Ridley Scott's unforgettable new political thriller, *Body of Lies*, probably won't be bumping the Taco Bell dog from the top spot anytime soon — especially if past "war on terror" films are any predictor of box office success.

DiCaprio plays Roger Ferris, a CIA operative in the Middle East searching for a known terrorist named Al-Saleem who claims responsibility for a series of attacks throughout Europe and recent threats targeting the U.S.

Crowe, who gained 50 pounds for the role, plays Ferris' superior Ed Hoffman who will do whatever it takes to hunt down Al-Saleem and his network. The two orchestrate a fictitious terrorist network and stage a phony attack on a military base, hoping Al-Saleem will come out of hiding to seek out his new competitor.

Ferris also enlists the help of the suave head of Jordanian security, Hani Salaam, exceptionally played by Mark Strong. Strong's presence is reminiscent of Andy Garcia's in *Ocean's Eleven*, only Hani is slimmer, more ruthless and better informed of the happenings going on in his jurisdiction. With his help, Ferris is able to set up surveillance around a particular safe-house believed to be protecting Al-Saleem's outfit. Hani has only one rule which he sternly tells Ferris: "Never lie to me."

There is a breezy romance between Ferris and Aisha, a nurse at a Jordanian hospital, which is never really developed and doesn't feel believable. The sub plot has no real function in the story other than to provide for a convenient plot tie-in to an otherwise improbable climax.

Several chase scenes with some fancy camera work ensue, and are visually appealing. Scott has great vision and his style is visible here — he takes full advantage of the sun-drenched landscapes of Morocco (posing as the Middle East) to show off some remarkable images.

But the film still falls flat. All the tools necessary to produce a first-rate political thriller are here, but there's too many subplots going on, and viewers never feel fully involved in the story.

What prevents *Body of Lies* from completely falling apart is the performances. DiCaprio has continued to take intense roles after *The Departed* and *Blood Diamond*. Again, he is convincing this time as a CIA agent coping with some moral dilemmas. He doesn't seem to mind frequently being in harm's way, but he can't shake off the collateral damage which Hoffman so unceremoniously dismisses.

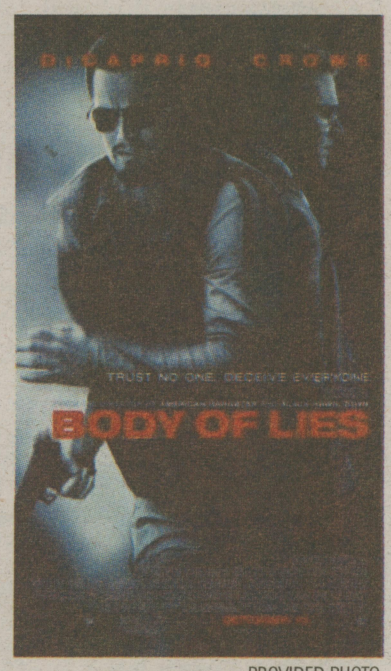
DiCaprio is permitted a few cynical exposition scenes which serve as the film's primary voice of opposition. During one particular phone call with Hoffman, Ferris laughs and informs his boss, "You're not going to win this war."

Crowe's Hoffman isn't painted with a very pleasant brush, as a stereotypical bureaucrat halfway around the world playing chess with human lives. He is manipulative, indifferent and only cares about results. He even shouts (in his southern accent) phrases like, "If you walk out that door you turn your back on America."

Scott is cautious not to let the film get too radical. Innocent civilians are killed by terrorist attacks, reminding us who the "real" bad guys are. Almost equally as frightening are the intrusive methods which the CIA use to track down targets. From a spy plane Hoffman is virtually able to play God, pinpointing the exact location of anyone using a cell phone.

Body of Lies has a few things going for it, but it never really achieves more than a mildly entertaining spy thriller. Considering the talent involved, that's disappointing.

If you're looking for a thought-provoking film concerning the conflict in Iraq, rent the powerful *In the Valley of Elah*. Otherwise, wait until *Body of Lies* comes out on DVD.



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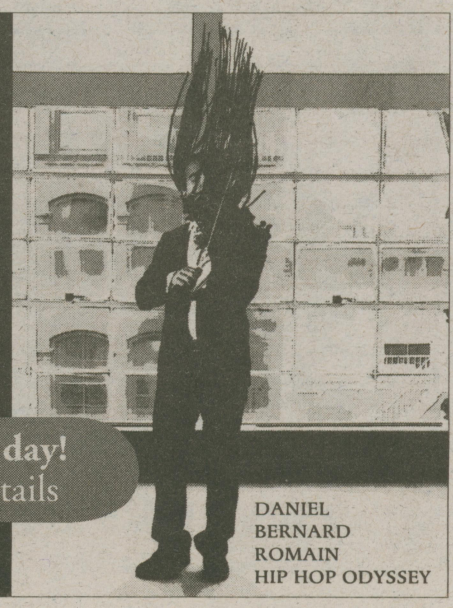
DANIEL BERNARD ROMAIN
HIP HOP ODYSSEY

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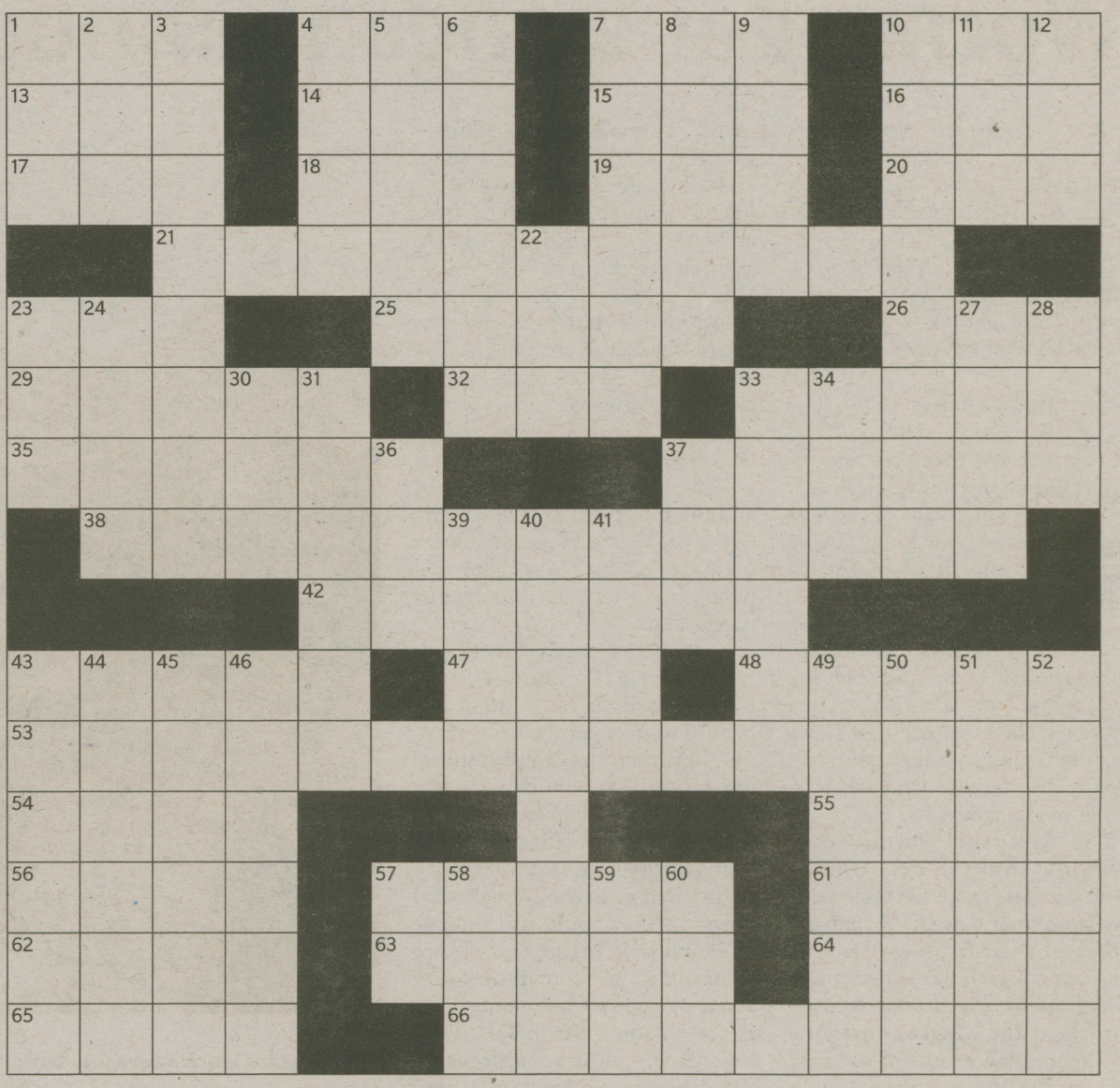
The Martlet Crossword

by Niko Skartvedt



Across

1 Stomach muscles
4 This can be about nothing
7 Fifth note
10 Hasten (oneself)
13 Greek letter
14 A theatre can have this in its name
15 A Grecian urn has one
16 Not quite right or even
17 There was a nightmare on this street
18 Common Arabic name
19 Purchase
20 McGarry or Tolstoy
21 "From that moment I declared everlasting war against the species, and, more than all, against him who had formed me and sent me forth to this insupportable misery."
23 Jolly laugh
25 What these quotes are (21, 38, 53 across)
26 Type of school (abbr.)
29 Hand-me-downs from your parents
32 The Concorde was one (abbr.)
33 Responses you might get if you ask for a volunteer in a kindergarten class
35 Tibetan mountaineer
37 Skullcap
38 "Perched upon a bust of Pallas just above my chamber door - Perched, and sat, and nothing more."
42 Ties up a boat again (sounds like a regretful feeling)
43 Runs away
47 Long ____ (past)
48 You might add water and stir
53 "I have never known birds of different species to flock together. The very concept is unimaginable. Why, if that happened, we wouldn't stand a chance!"
54 Bygone Italian monies
55 Bow signal
56 In a minute
57 Story of the fall of Troy
61 Kick into motion
62 Arthur or Harvey (Portrayed respectively by Martin Freeman and Tommy Lee Jones)
63 Cheese and basil sauce
64 This scary answer is EULN
65 These travel at mach 1+
66 Purple gems

Down

1 Devoured
2 Seen with fad. and tre.
3 Gathered, as in Demons
4 The end of Emily Carr
5 Unit of magnetic strength
6 Mr. Holland had one of these
7 Accepting, dissenting remark
8 Hypothetical force once thought to pervade all nature
9 Command to a dog
10 Message from God
11 March has multiple, as do most other months
12 Period in Japan
22 Times (abbr.)
23 This organization could help you find out about ancestors in Ontario (abbr.)
24 High-pitched laugh
27 Most recognizable sound in cinema horror
28 The times change with it (abbr.)
30 Unit of energy (c-g-s)
31 Not very thick
33 All men should strive to be one
34 Kind of record (abbr.)
36 Present indicative plural of be
37 "It was ____" (that girl over there)
39 Nurse or maid in India
40 A doctrine that mathematics can be reduced to reason
41 The dead might guard this in fantasy tales
43 Side orders
44 Gradual changes in features across the range of a species
45 Face to face (Shakespearean)
46 Lott and Reznor
49 Irish surname (similar to Ken's of the Dropkick Murphys)
50 Habeas ____
51 Magical
52 A nu metal squirrel might collect these
57 Type of address
58 Meadow
59 Swallowed
60 Speck

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6			9					7
	7				1		2	

ON CAMPUS

THURSDAY, OCT. 23

Where Walls Dissolve: Words for the Dispossessed
7 - 9 p.m.
Fine Arts Building, 103
Sean Virgo, UVic's Haig-Brown Centenary Writer-in-Residence, will discuss and illustrate the challenges and occasional conundrums of being a writer who loves the natural world.
Fee: Free
Info: Valerie Tenning
250-721-7306
writing@uvic.ca

SUNDAY, OCT. 26

Artists among the Early Icelandic Immigrants
2 - 3 p.m.
Clearihue Building, A206
Professor Rósa Kristín Júlíusdóttir, Assistant Professor of Art Education at the University of Akureyri, Iceland, studies the importance to young children of experiencing art and the role of art in the lives of the disabled.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-853-7656
pabaer@uvic.ca

MONDAY, OCT. 27

Japan's Encounter with Public International Law from the 19th Century to the Present
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Murray and Anne Fraser Building, 142
Professor Ago will talk about how Japan encountered the world after 260 years of seclusion, examine the status of international law under the current Constitution, report on scholarly debates on the direct applicability of international law to Japanese domestic law, and touch on recent law reform in Japan.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-7020
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Career Conversations 2008: What Can I Do with a Degree in Science?
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Engineering and Computer Science Building, 124
Attend the upcoming UVic career event for all students and alumni. Hear from UVic Science alumni who will share their experiences in making the transition from university to work. Refreshments provided.
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TUESDAY, OCT. 28

Health Services Flu Shot Clinic
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Universty Centre, Lobby
Flu shots available from UVic Health Services nurses. Please bring medical card.
Fee: $20 cash only
Info: Birdena Luney
250-721-8492
luney@uvic.ca

Face to Face with Artwork: Aesthetic Experience and Young Children
12:30 - 1:20 p.m.
David Strong Building, C126
Professor Rósa Kristín Júlíusdóttir, Assistant Professor of Art Education at the University of Akureyri, Iceland. This lecture asks what can children learn when they visit art museums, create artwork and "do" philosophy? The lecture attempts to provide a visual answer to these questions.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-853-7656
pabaer@uvic.ca

Peer-Helping Coffeehouse
4 - 6 p.m.
Clearihue Building, D131
The drop-in coffeehouse features free (and no-strings-attached) beverages and refreshments. Organized by the Peer-Helping Program, this is a space for students to enjoy a break between classes and connect with one another.
Fee: Free
Info: Kathleen Hare
harek@uvic.ca

Career Conversations 2008: What Can I Do with a Degree in Social Work?
5:30 - 7 p.m.
Cornett Building, A121
Hear from UVic Social Work alumni who will share their experiences in making the transition from university to work.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-8421
careers@uvic.ca

Career Conversations 2008: What Can I Do with a Degree in Social Sciences?
5:30 - 7 p.m.
Social Sciences and Math Building, A102
Attend the upcoming UVic career event for all students and alumni. Hear from UVic Social Sciences alumni who will share their experiences in making the transition from university to work.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-8421
careers@uvic.ca

Career Conversations 2008: What Can I Do with a Degree in Child and Youth Care?
5:30 - 7 p.m.
Clearihue Building, A309
Hear from UVic Child and Youth Care alumni who will share their experiences in making the transition from university to work.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-8421
careers@uvic.ca

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 29

Get A Flu Shot Not the Flu!
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
University Centre, Lobby
University Health Services nurses will be giving flu shots. Please bring your medical card.
Fee: $20 cash only
Info: Birdena Luney
250-721-8492
luney@uvic.ca

Career Conversations 2008: What Can I Do with a Degree in Fine Arts?
5:30 - 7 p.m.
Visual Arts Building, A146
Attend the upcoming UVic career event for all students and alumni. Hear from UVic Fine Arts alumni who will share their experiences in making the transition from university to work. Refreshments provided.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-8421
careers@uvic.ca

LIVE CONCERTS

THURSDAY, OCT. 23

Alex Nichols, Mike Hann, Jeff Scotney, Mike Roma, Keith Gallant, @ Canoe
9 - 11:30 p.m., doors at 8 p.m.
Featuring members of the band Quoia and other Victorian super heroes. (No Minors).
Fee: Free

Don Thompson Quartet @ Hermann's Jazz Club
Tickets available at the Victoria Jazz Society, the McPherson Box Office, and Lyle's Place. Student tickets available at VJS office only. (All Ages).
Fee: $19 in advance (students and VJS members) $22 at the door

CFUV Coffee House: Ookpik, Longshanks, DJ Aperture @ Habit Coffee and Culture
8 p.m. - 12 a.m.
Come out and enjoy some Local Experimental DJ sets in a relaxed and caffeinated environment. Bring your crafts and build some community! Tickets available at the door. (All Ages).
Fee: $5

FRIDAY, OCT. 24

New Old Stock @ Fairfield United Church
7:30 - 10 p.m., doors at 7 p.m.
Tickets available at Larsen Music, Ivy's Book Shop, or lea.kirstein@gmail.com. (All Ages).
Fee: $10 - $15 in advance $12 - $17 at the door.

Alex Nichols, Mike Hann, Jeff Scotney, Mike Roma, Keith Gallant, @ Canoe
9 - 11:30 p.m., doors at 8 p.m.
(No Minors).
Fee: Free

The Switchblade Valentines, The Vicious Cycles, Haddonfield @ Lucky Bar
10 p.m.
The Switchblades tour kickoff show!!! With Vancouver's Vicious Cycles and Vic's own Haddonfiled! (No Minors).
Fee: $10

Alexander Bueno @ Serious Coffee, Cook St.
7:30 - 9:30 p.m., doors at 7 p.m.
Folkie Alexander Bueno teases the evening with melodious covers and originals. Come enjoy coffee and treats, trendy decor and comfortable seating. (All Ages).
Fee: Free with purchase

Matt Mays & El Torpedo, Arkells, Vince Vaccaro @ Sugar
9 p.m.
Tickets available at Lyle's Place, Ditch Records & CDs, www.ticketweb.ca. (No Minors).
Fee: $20

SATURDAY, OCT. 25

Battle of the Bands, Systematic Dream, Lesbian Fist Magnet, Get Up to Get Down @ The Cambie
9 p.m. - 1 a.m., doors at 8 p.m.
(No Minors).
Fee: $5

Pigs @ Heckler's Bar & Grill
9:30 p.m. - 1 a.m., doors at 7 p.m.
(All Ages).
Fee: Free

SOLID! with DJ Longshanks @ Lucky Bar
10 p.m.
DJ Longshanks spins an eclectic mix of Post-Everything dance music plus rare mixes and remixes. Hear it here now or everywhere else later. (No Minors).
Fee: $6

Halloween Howl: The Timebenders @ Pearkes Rec Centre
8 p.m. - 1 a.m., doors at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets available online at http://www.timebenders.com or at Food For Thought Catering 250-478-2721. (No Minors).
Fee: $25

Attack in Black, Ladyhawk @ Sugar
9 p.m.
Tickets available at Lyle's Place, Ditch Records & CDs, www.ticketweb.ca. (No Minors).
Fee: $15

CLASSIFIEDS

Ladies need Xtra Cash? Modelling & Actor Positions Available! Earn up to $250 per hour...no exp. nec. Training provided. Reply with a photo and resume for quick results and set your own hours. TLCProductions.bc@gmail.com 250-888-4905

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Multifaith Walk Against Violence, which has crossed the country from Halifax, is expected to arrive at the Parliament Buildings in Victoria, 3 p.m. Monday, Oct. 27, having just walked from Swartz Bay.

Local well wishers may cheer Imman Syed on between Caledonia and Humboldt, and greet him at the Parliament Buildings with their organizational banners at 3 p.m. for a short welcoming ceremony.

UVic Zen Buddhist Club AGM
Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Cornett Building, A132
AGENDA
1. Appointment of Board Members
2.Upcoming activities: Tuesday Evening Meditation, Story time with Eshu, Student Retreat Nov. 11., 9 a.m. -3:30 p.m. $20, Buddha's Birthday May 2009
3.What kind of things do we want to do in this club? Silent Hikes? Social Action? Speakers? Resource people: Eshu Martin... others?
4.Financial Status

Fall into something great! Follow your heart by offering hope, dignity and respect: volunteer with us at the NEED Crisis & Information Line.
Training starts Nov. 15
Next Information Session:
Tuesday, Oct. 21
6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at UVic
Grad Student Society Bldg.
386-6328 or www.needcrisis.bc.ca

Get Animated! Victoria Programs
This event is free and open to the public.
Date: Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008
Place: Camosun College, Lansdowne Campus Fisher Building, Room 100, 3100 Foul Bay Road (at Lansdowne).
Time: 7 p.m. - Vancouver Island Shorts/ Get Animated! New Visions
8:30 p.m. - Artist Talk & Screening with Oscar®-winning animators David Fine and Alison Snowden (creators of British TV Series Bob and Margaret).
Get Animated! Victoria will feature two programs:
-Vancouver Island Shorts and New Visions, a selection of locally animated projects and a collection of the latest cutting-edge NFB releases.
-Artist Talk & Screening with Academy Award-winning animators David Fine and Alison Snowden (Bob's Birthday) and creators of the British TV series Bob and Margaret.
For full information, press notes and images: nfb.ca/getanimated

Comics

Checkerpop

By Marc Junker & Denver Jackson

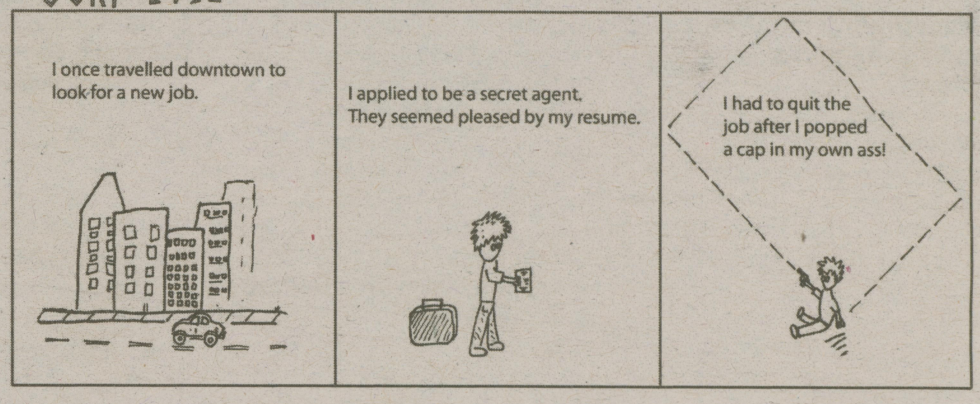
read them all: Checkerpop.com

TUNE IN NEXT WEEK!

North-East Lynx

Bunns

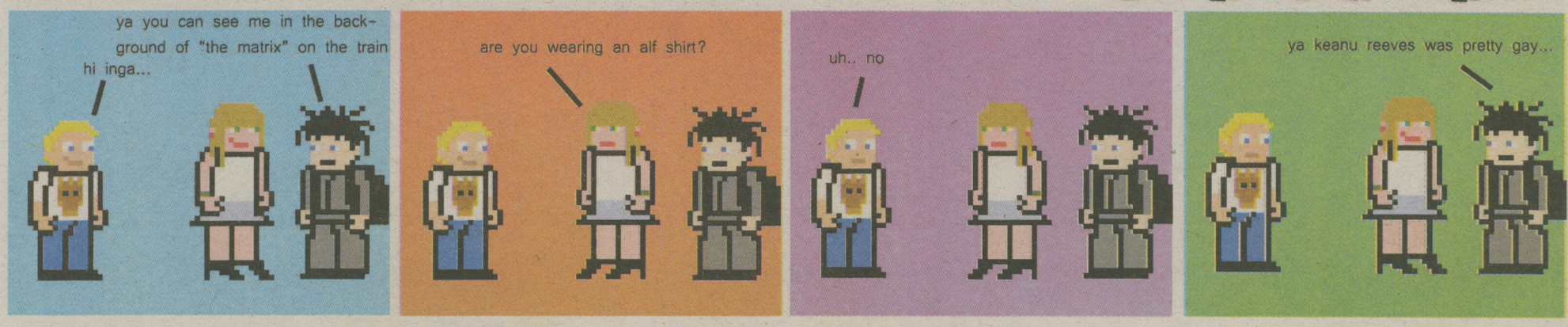
Corp Evil



Smith vs. Smith: "Priorities"

By: Matt Smith

Writer's Block

Remember the goonies??

by miljan matheas miljanic